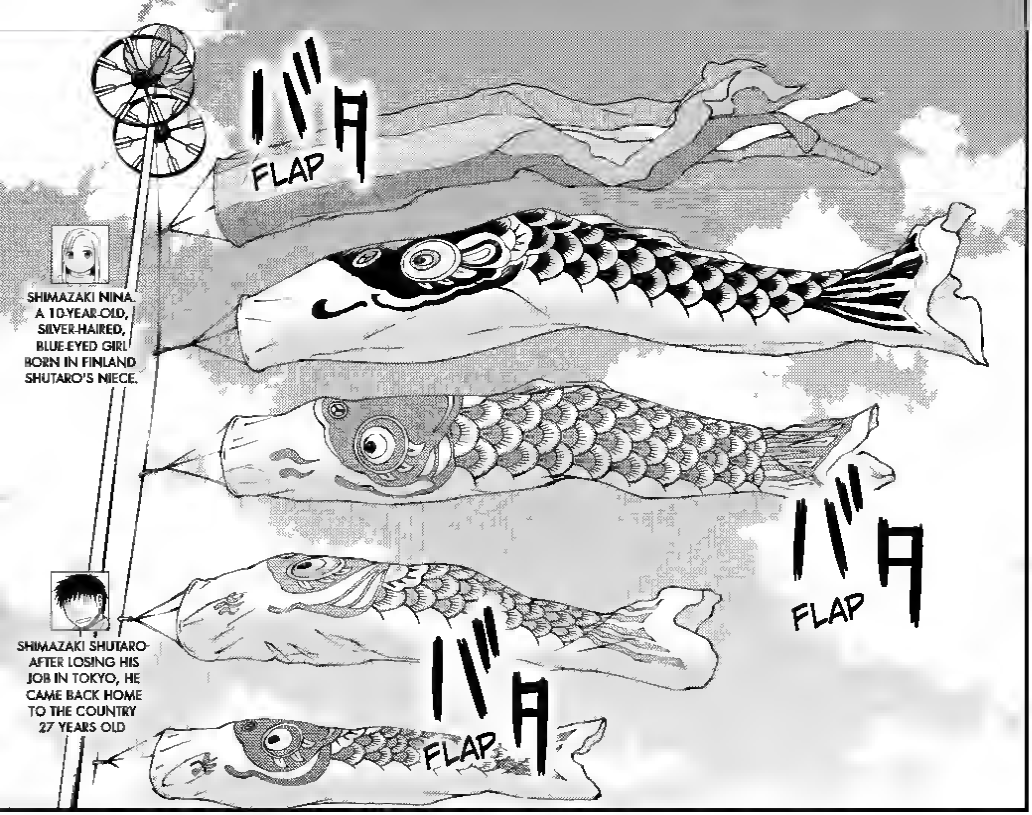
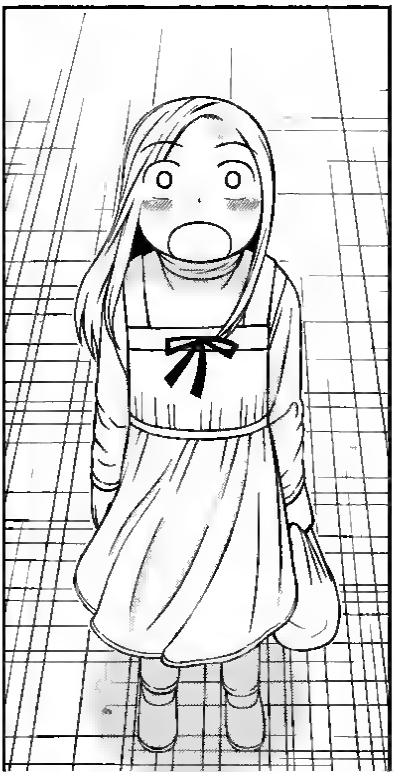
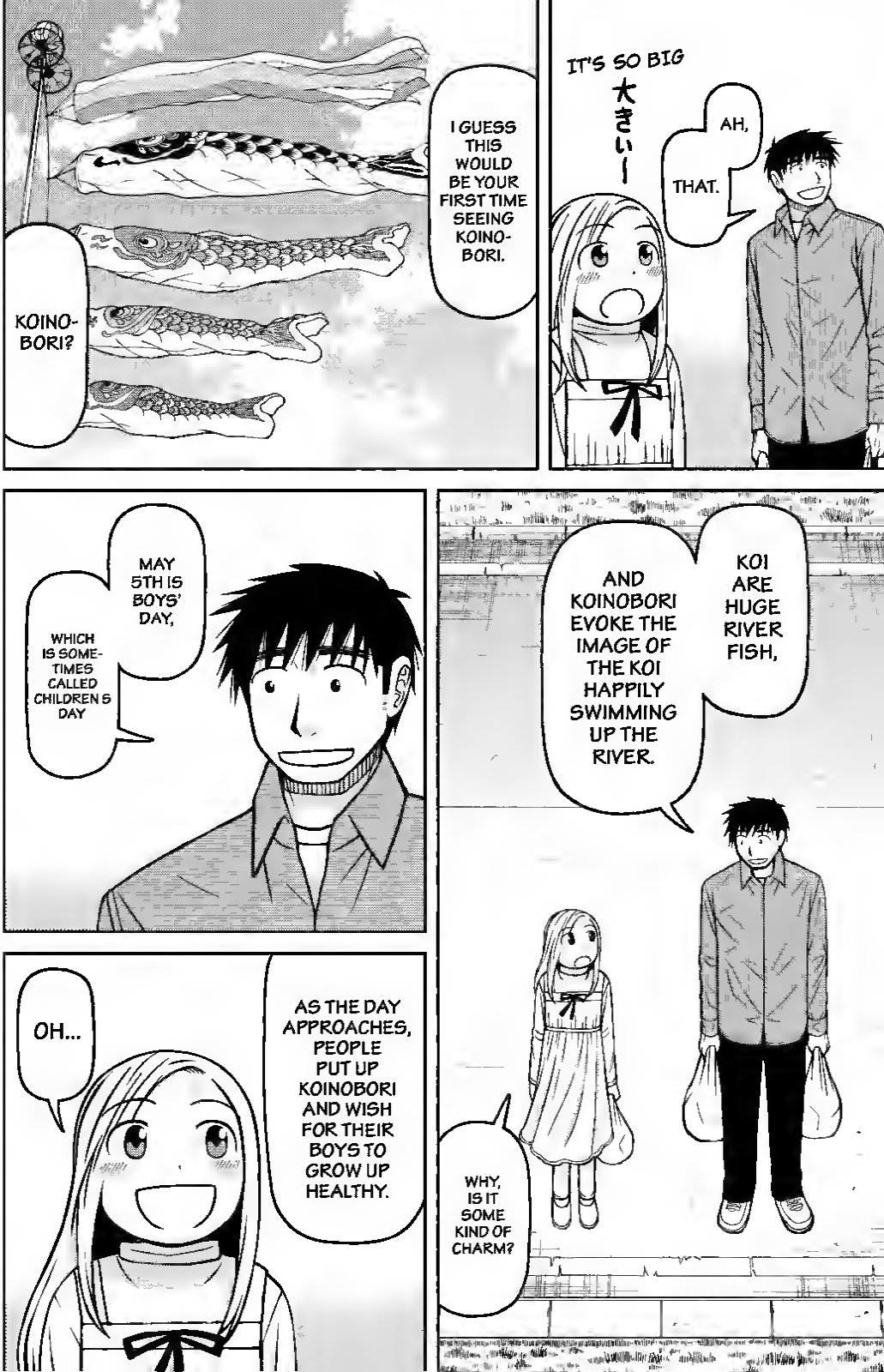
CHAPTER 72
THE FISH OF MAY

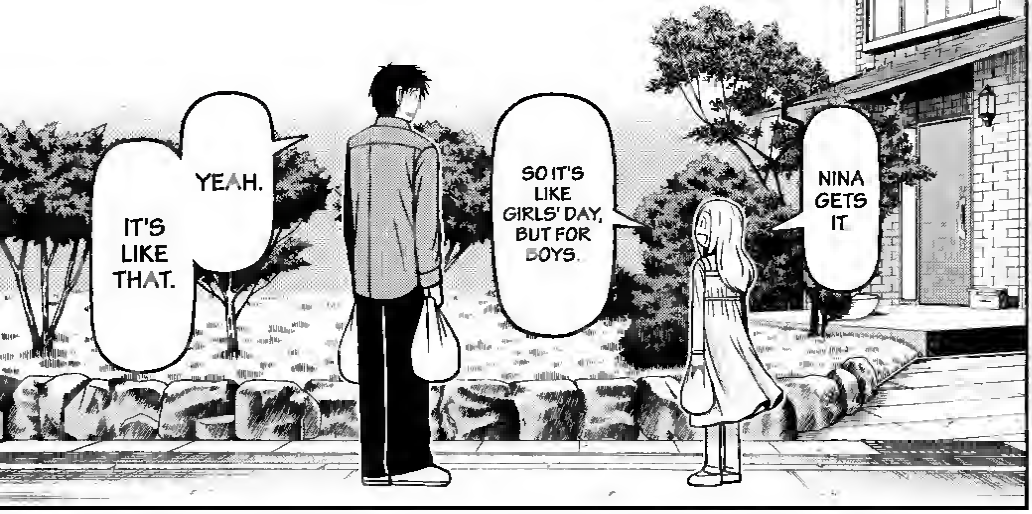
THE THING THAT CAME INTO FOCUS UNDER THE SUNNY MAY SKY IS...
THEY ALWAYS OPEN AFTER GOLDEN WEEK STARTS.
IT'S GOOD THAT HARUKAWA SUPER-MARKET WAS OPEN
YEAH.
BUT THANKS TO THAT, WE WERE ABLE TO BUY INGREDIENTS


FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
SHIMAZAKI NINA.
A 10-YEAR-OLD,
SILVER-HAIRED,
BLUE-EYED GIRL
BORN IN FINLAND.
SHUTARO'S NIECE.
SHIMAZAKI SHUTARO.
AFTER LOSING HIS
JOB IN TOKYO, HE
CAME BACK HOME
TO THE COUNTRY.
27 YEARS OLD

SHUTARO,
WHAT'S
THAT?

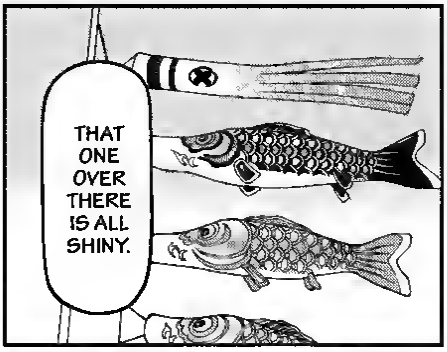



KOINO-BORI?
I GUESS THIS WOULD BE YOUR FIRST TIME SEEING KOINO-BORI.
IT'S SO BIG
大きい～
AH, THAT.
MAY 5TH IS BOYS' DAY,
WHICH IS SOME-TIMES CALLED CHILDREN S DAY
KOI ARE HUGE RIVER FISH,
AND KOINOBORI EVOKE THE IMAGE OF THE KOI HAPPILY SWIMMING UP THE RIVER.
WHY, IS IT SOME KIND OF CHARM?
OH...
AS THE DAY APPROACHES, PEOPLE PUT UP KOINOBORI AND WISH FOR THEIR BOYS TO GROW UP HEALTHY.

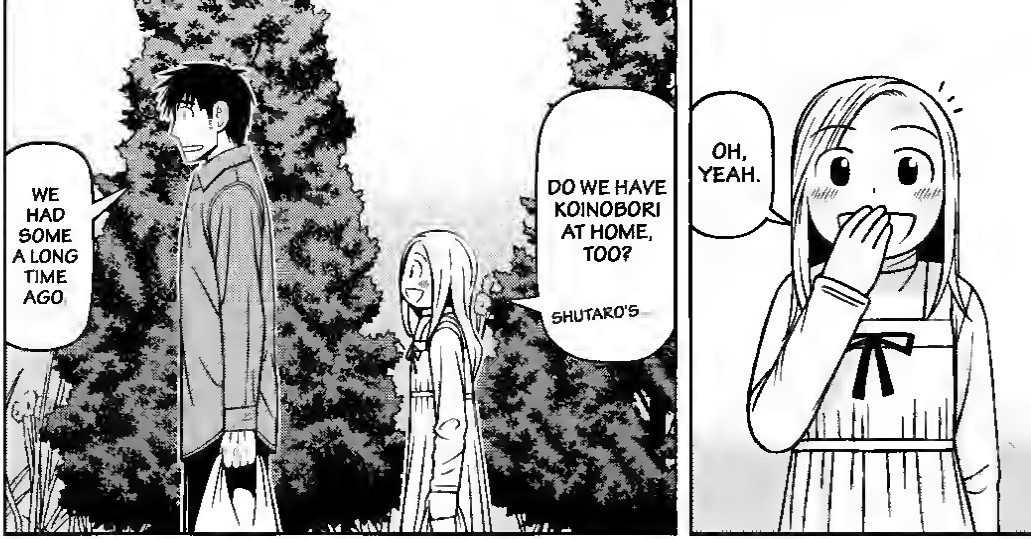

NINA GETS IT.
SO IT'S LIKE GIRLS' DAY, BUT FOR BOYS.
YEAH. IT'S LIKE THAT.

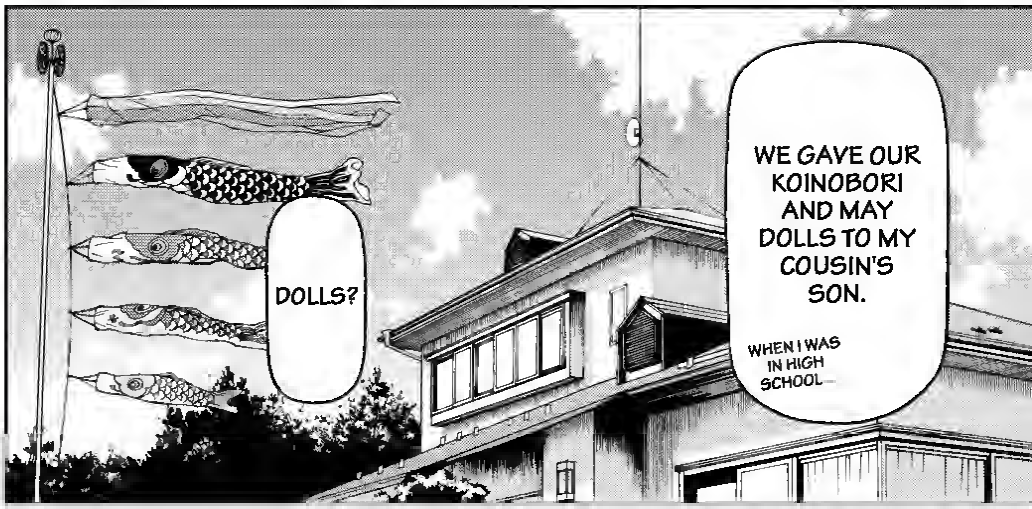
HEY! THERE ARE SOME OVER THERE, TOO.
AND HERE.

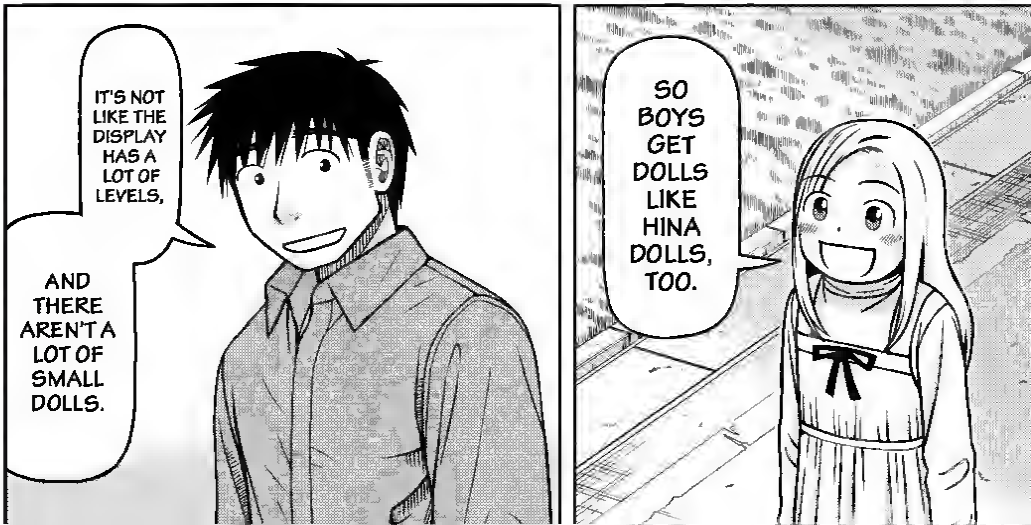
THERE ARE SO MANY DIFFERENT KINDS OF KOINOBORI!
HOW FUN.
HA HA.

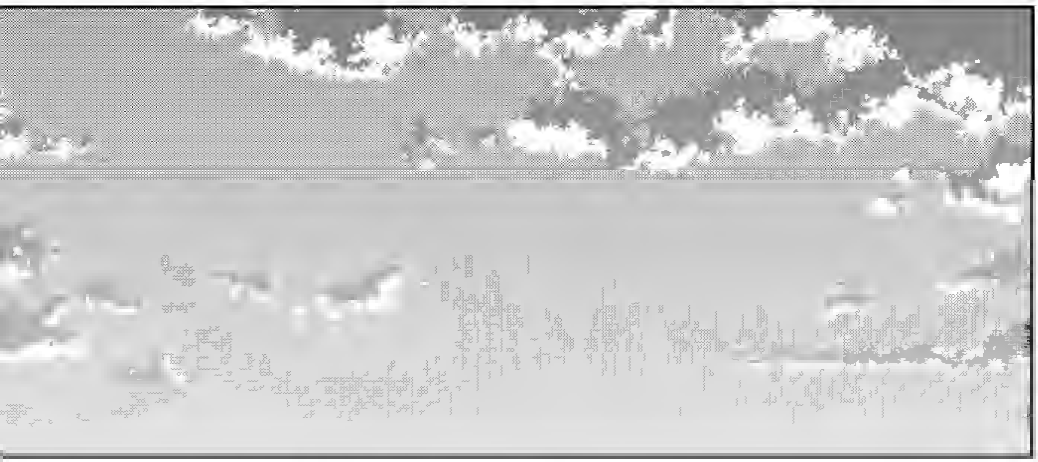

THAT ONE OVER THERE IS ALL SHINY.

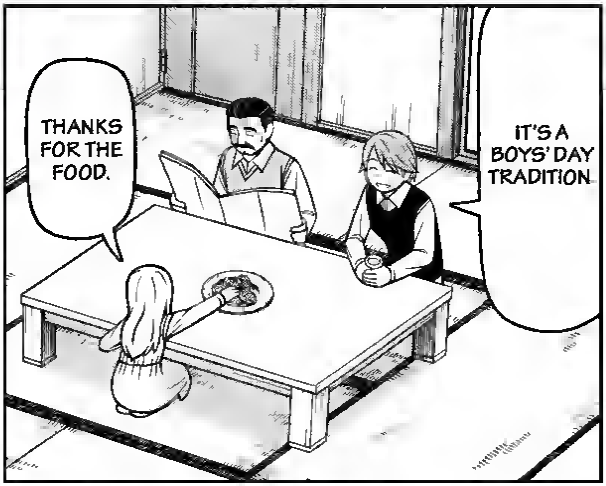
THAT ONE'S DIFFERENT, TOO...


WE HAD SOME A LONG TIME AGO.
DO WE HAVE KOINOBORI AT HOME, TOO?
SHUTARO'S
OH, YEAH.


DOLLS?
WE GAVE OUR KOINOBORI AND MAY DOLLS TO MY COUSIN'S SON.
WHEN I WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL

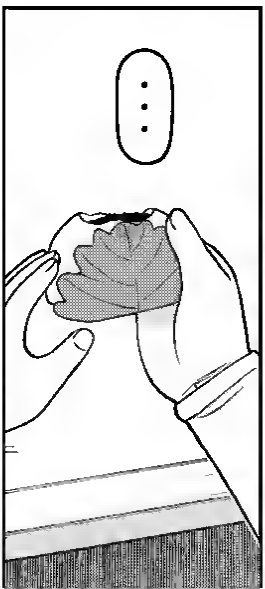

IT'S NOT LIKE THE DISPLAY HAS A LOT OF LEVELS,
AND THERE AREN'T A LOT OF SMALL DOLLS.
SO BOYS GET DOLLS LIKE HINA DOLLS, TOO.

HA HA.
IT'S NOT REALLY FAIR THAT THE BOYS GET BOTH KOINOBORI AND DOLLS.
HUH...



THANKS FOR THE FOOD.
IT'S A BOYS' DAY TRADITION.

GRANOMA, WHAT'S THAT?
KASHIWA MOCHI.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO EAT IT IF YOU DON'T WANT TO
WAS NINA SUPPOSED TO EAT THIS?
食べたらがいいのかな？
YOU CAN EAT THE LEAF ON THIS, TOO?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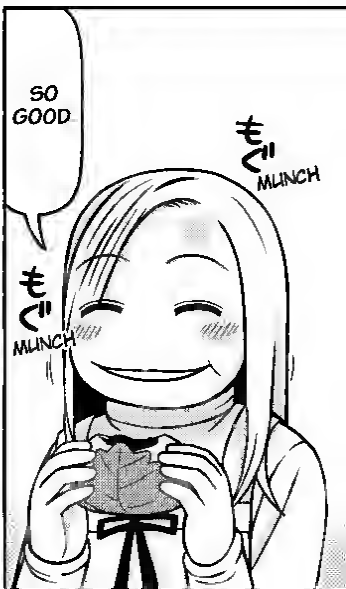
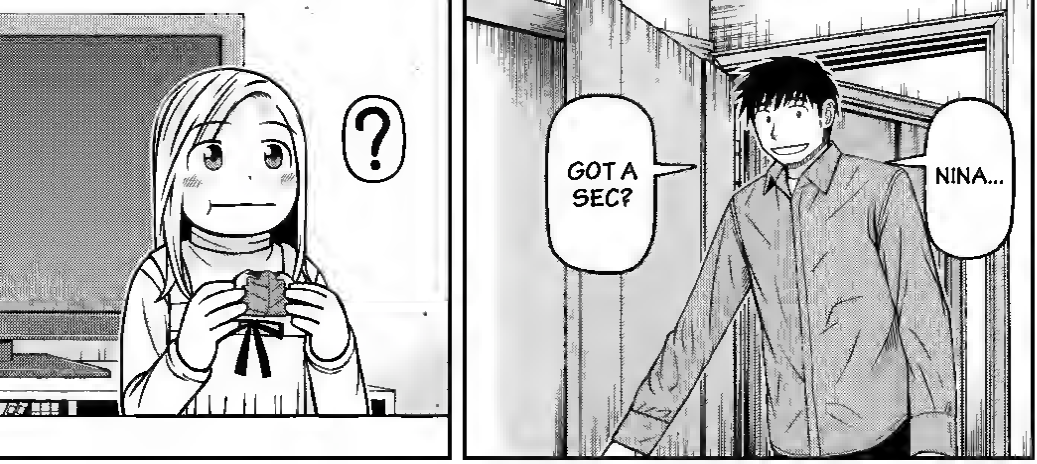
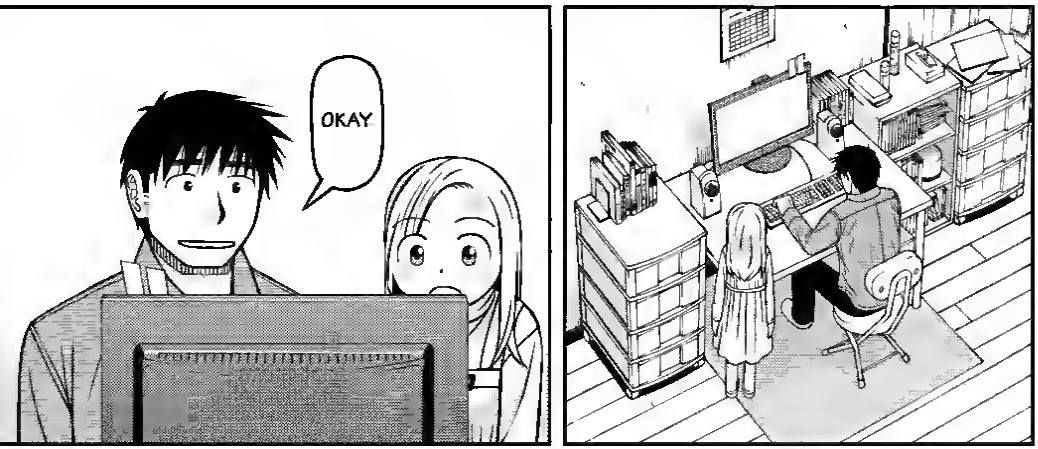
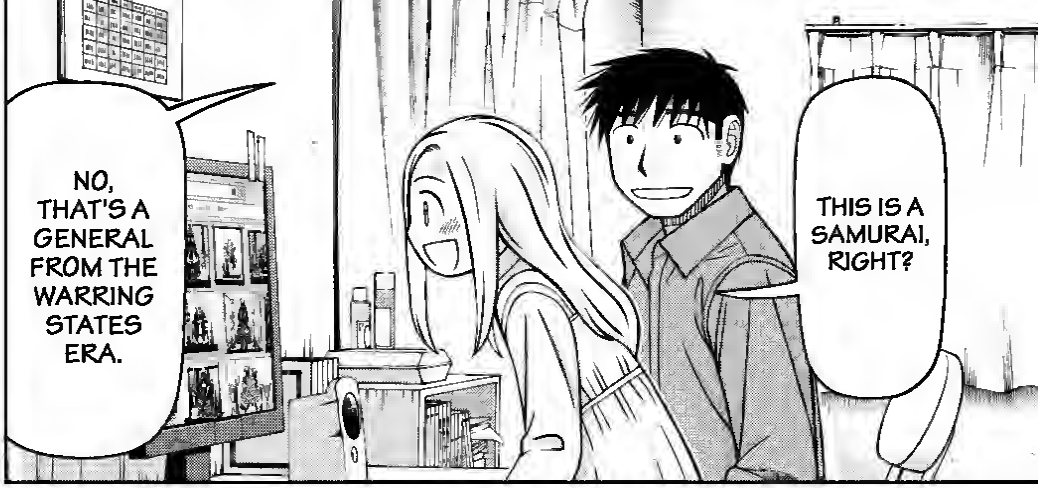
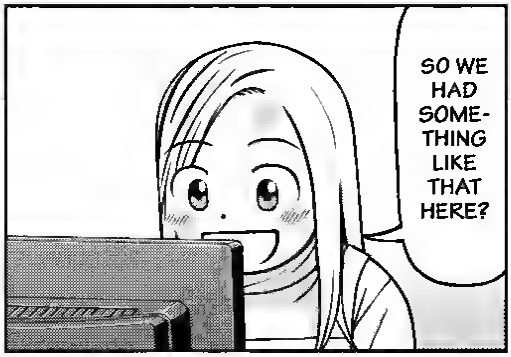

SO GOOD
もぐ MUNCH
もぐ MUNCH


?
GOT A SEC?
NINA...

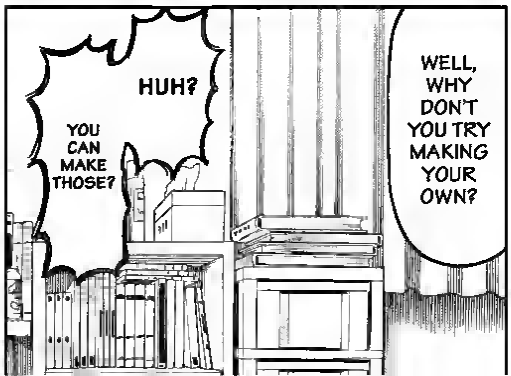

OKAY

MAY DOLLS
すべて
画像
ショッピング
ニュース
地図
もっと見る
検索ツール
SO THESE ARE THE MAY DOLLS.
OOOOH.

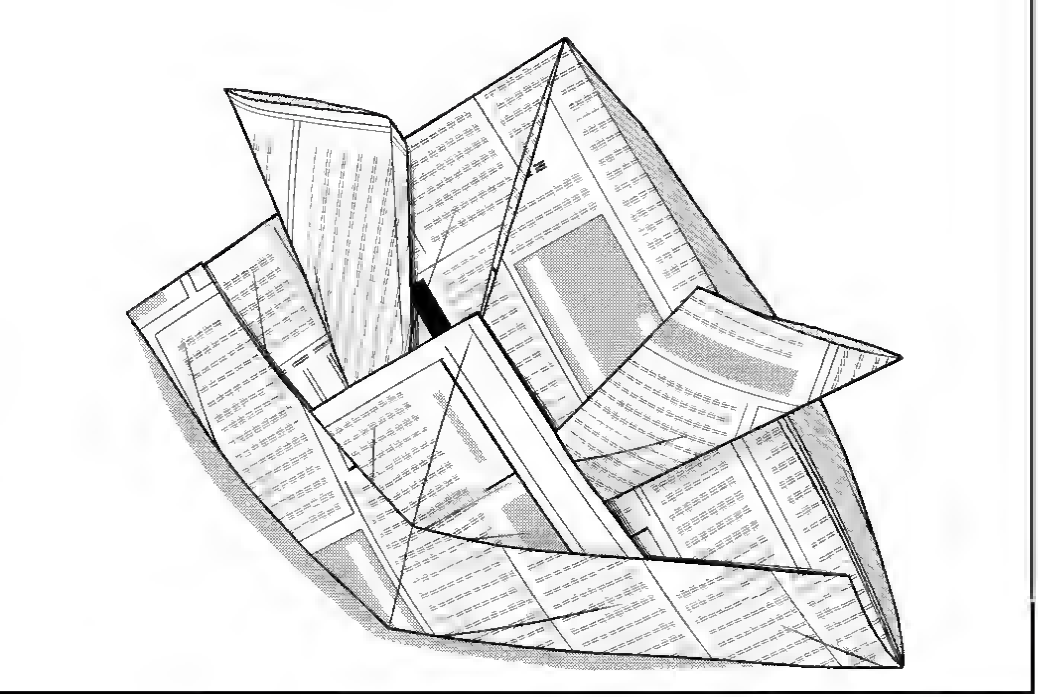

THIS IS A SAMURAI, RIGHT?
NO, THAT'S A GENERAL FROM THE WARRING STATES ERA.

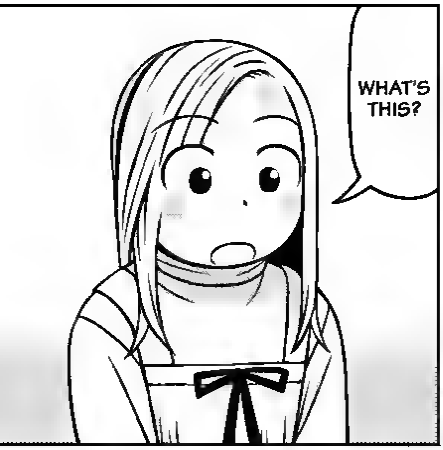

SO WE HAD SOME-THING LIKE THAT HERE?

NINA WISHES SHE COULD HAVE SEEN IT


WELL, WHY DON'T YOU TRY MAKING YOUR OWN?
HUH?
YOU CAN MAKE THOSE?

A GENERAL
IT LOOKS SO JAPANESE.

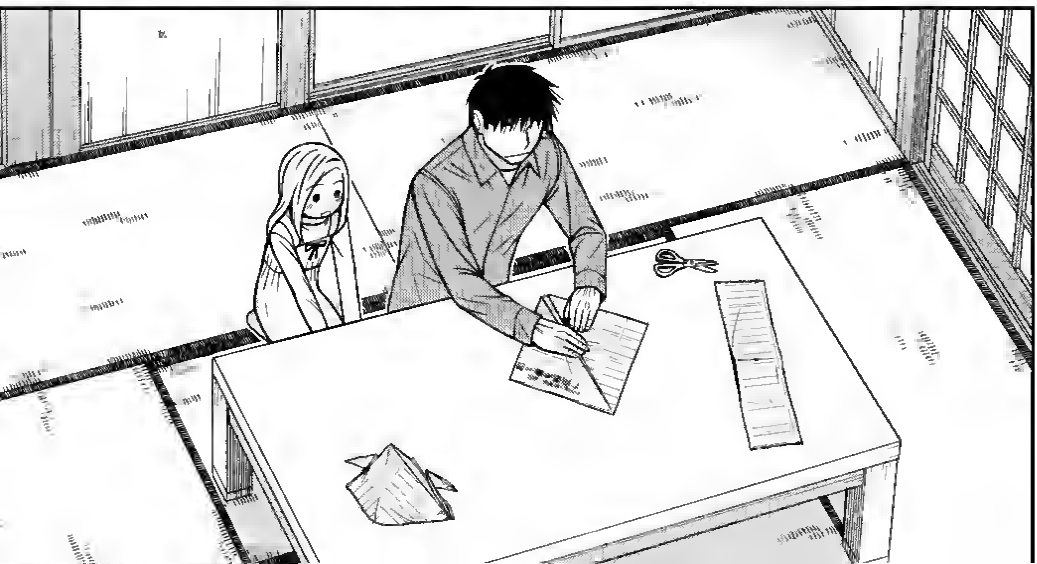


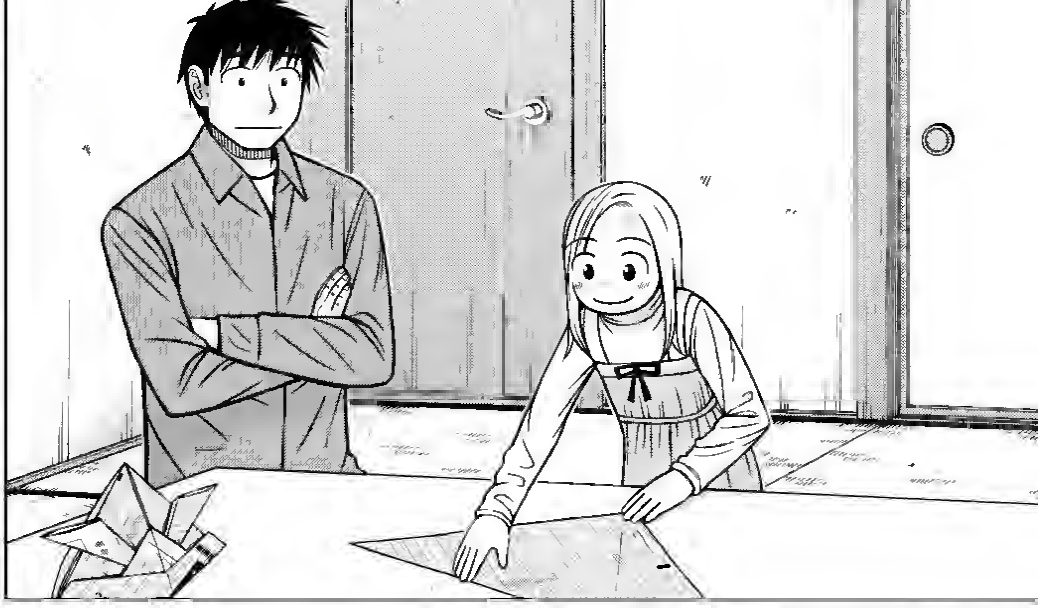

WHAT'S THIS?

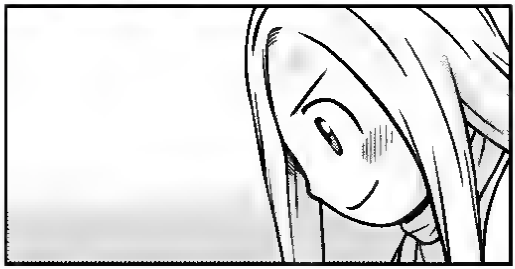
A HELMET.
さっき武者人形がかぶってただろ?
THE DOLL YOU SAW EARLIER WAS WEARING ONE.

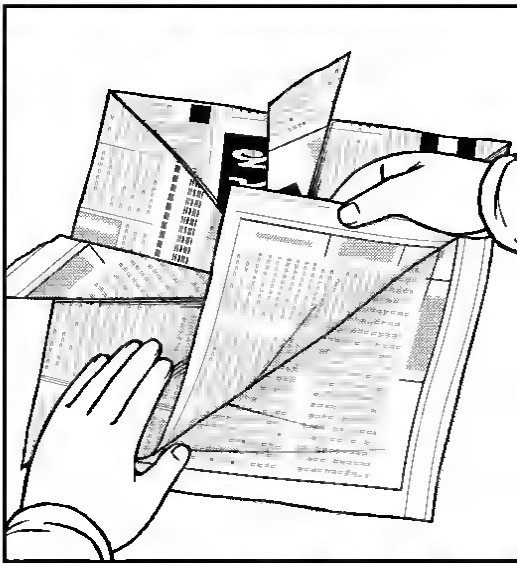
SEE?
WHEN YOU PUT IT ON RIGHT...
DON'T I LOOK AWE-SOME?
MAYBE THAT WAS A BIT TOO CHILDISH
Oo
...
SO NINA CAN MAKE SOME-THING LIKE THAT WITH A NEWS-PAPER?
WOW! WOW!

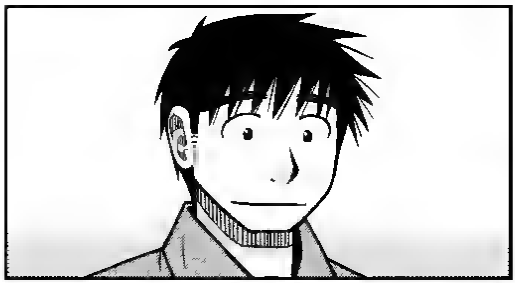
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT.
SHUTARO, SHOW NINA HOW TO MAKE IT.
NINA WANTS TO MAKE ONE, TOO.







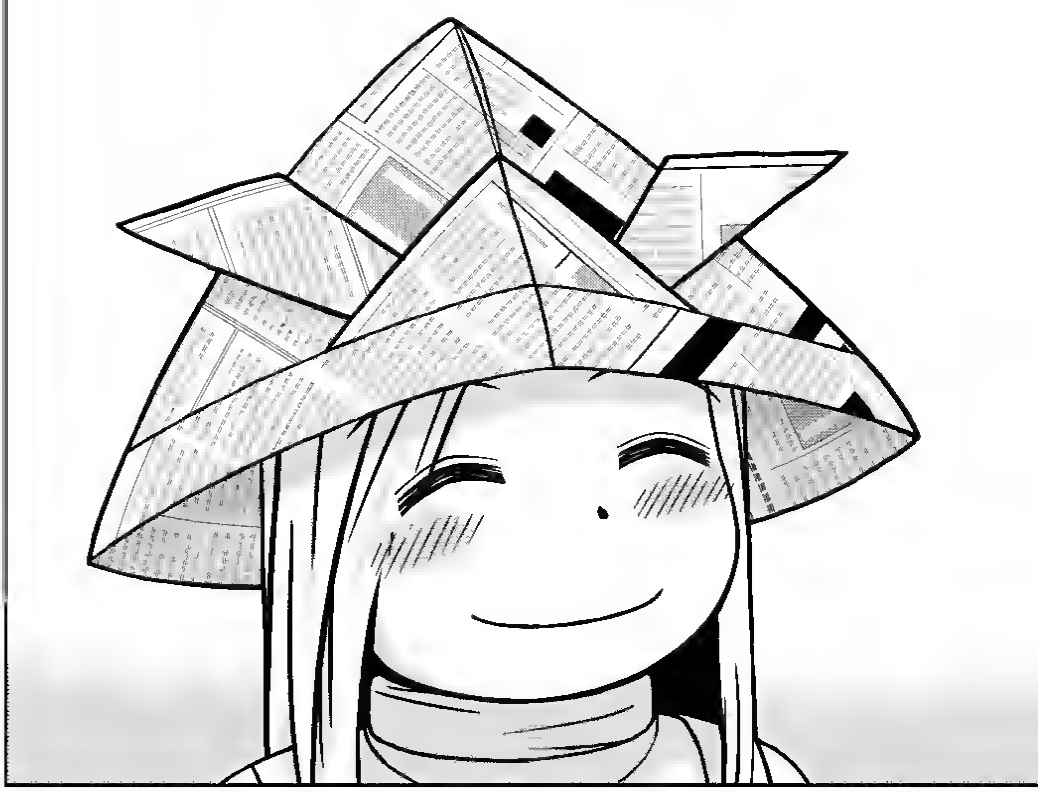




IT'S DONE.

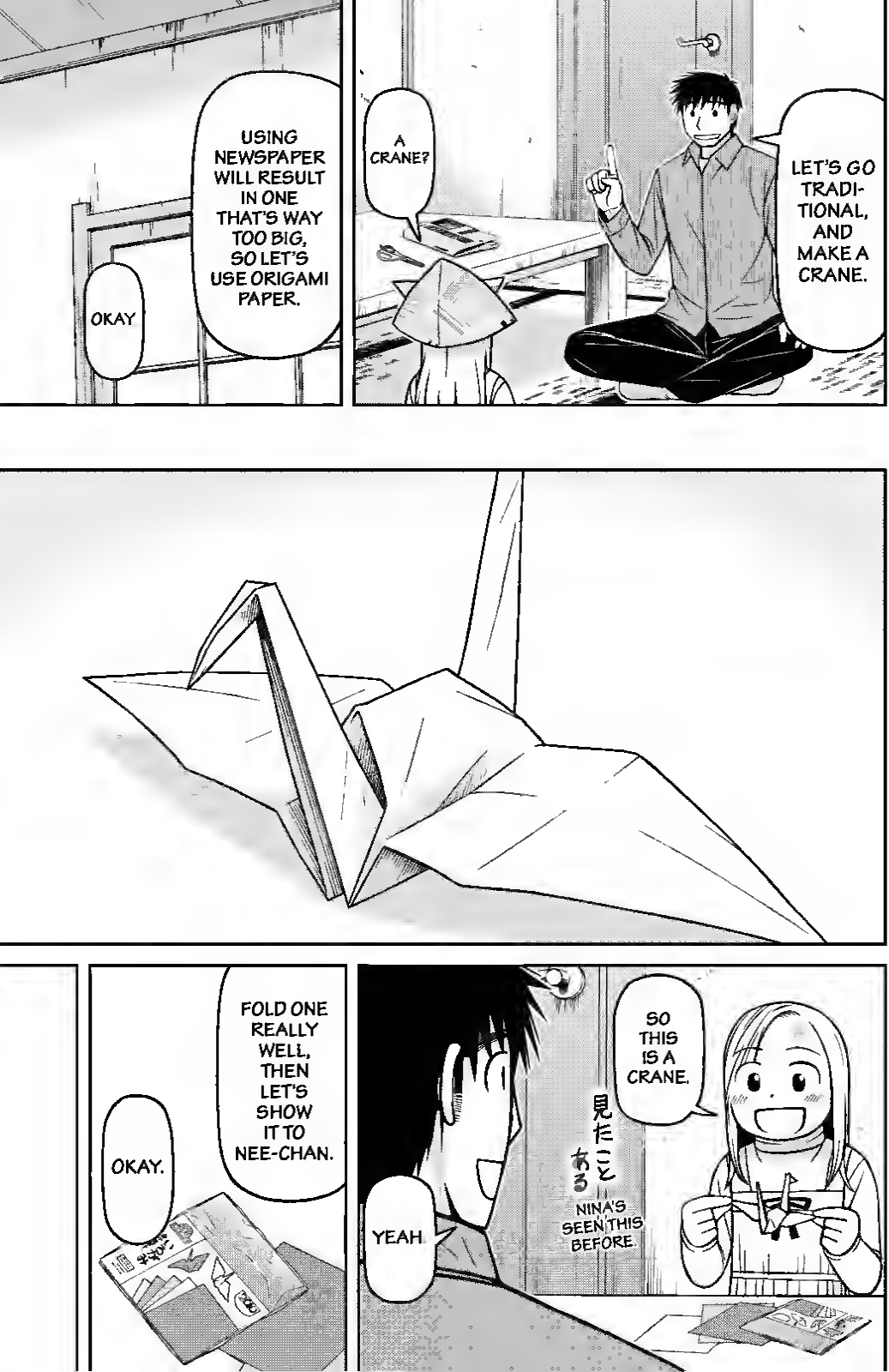
TE HE HE.
NICE, NICE.
OOOH...

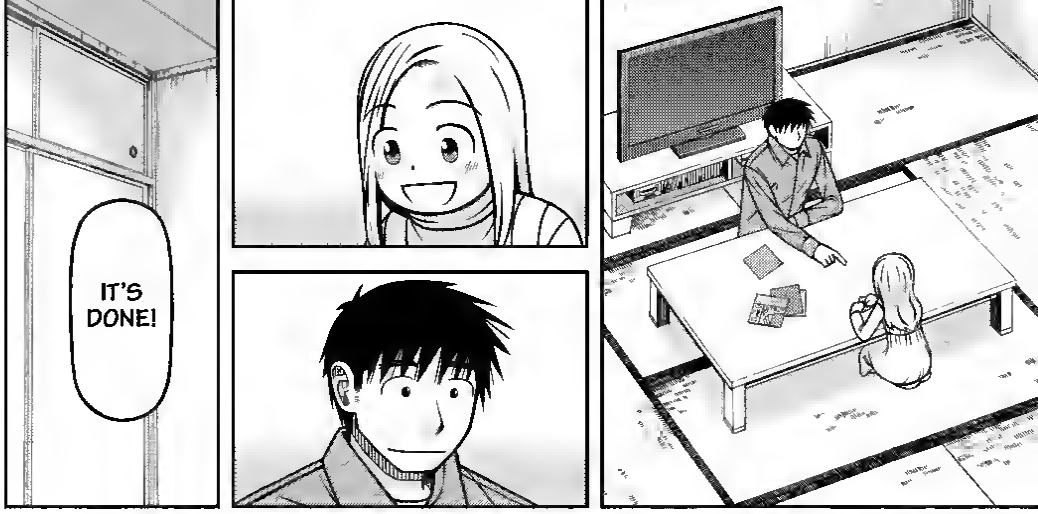
I GUESS YOU'RE A LOT LIKE NEE-CHAN, NINA.
COME TO THINK OF IT, NEE-CHAN WAS REALLY GOOD AT ORIGAMI, TOO.
YOU'RE REALLY GOOD WITH YOUR HANDS, NINA.
REALLY?

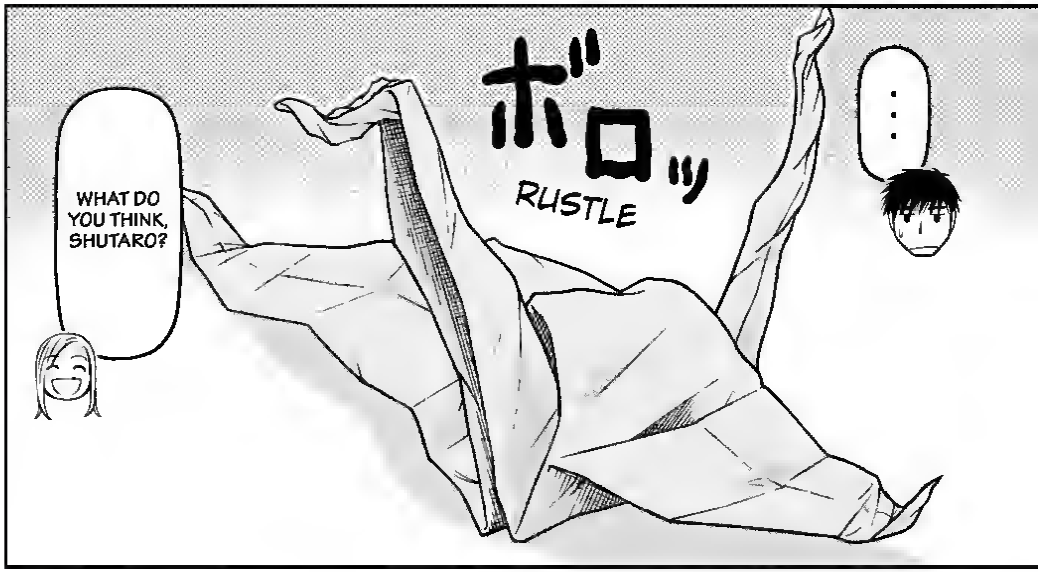


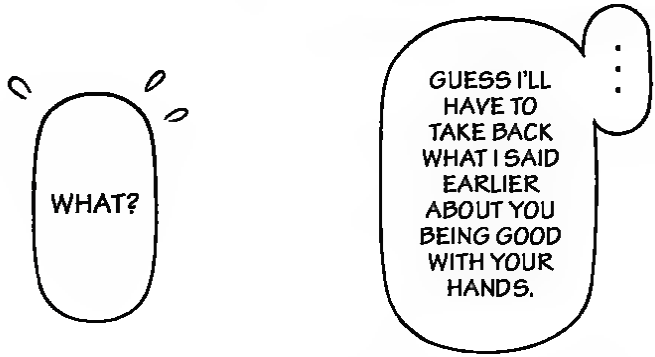
5月
WELL...
THEN WHAT ELSE CAN YOU DO?

HEY, SHUTARO
SHOW NINA HOW TO MAKE THE REST OF IT AND NOT JUST THE HEAD.
WE'RE DEFINITELY NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO MAKE THE ARMOR.


USING NEWSPAPER WILL RESULT IN ONE THAT'S WAY TOO BIG, SO LET'S USE ORIGAMI PAPER.
OKAY
A CRANE?
LET'S GO TRADI-TIONAL, AND MAKE A CRANE.
FOLD ONE REALLY WELL, THEN LET'S SHOW IT TO NEE-CHAN.
OKAY.
SO THIS IS A CRANE.
見たことある
NINA'S SEEN THIS BEFORE
YEAH



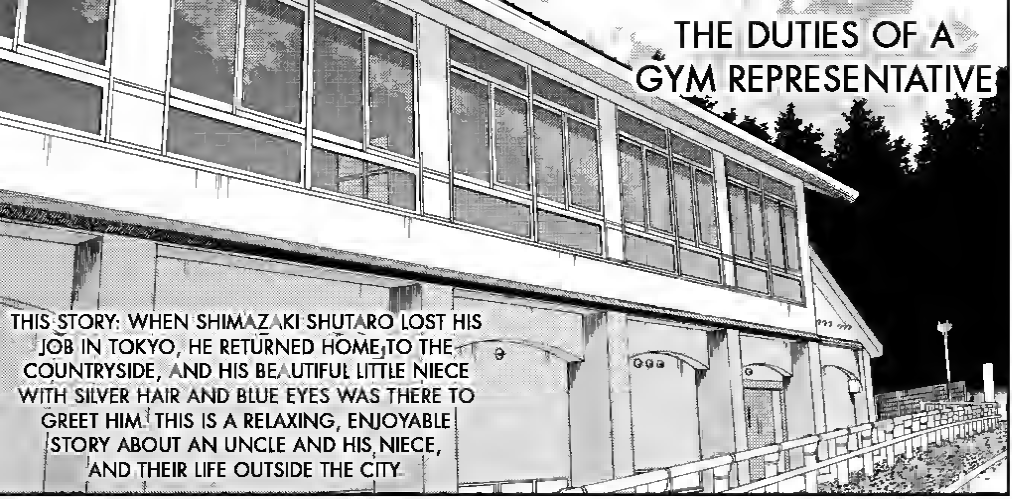


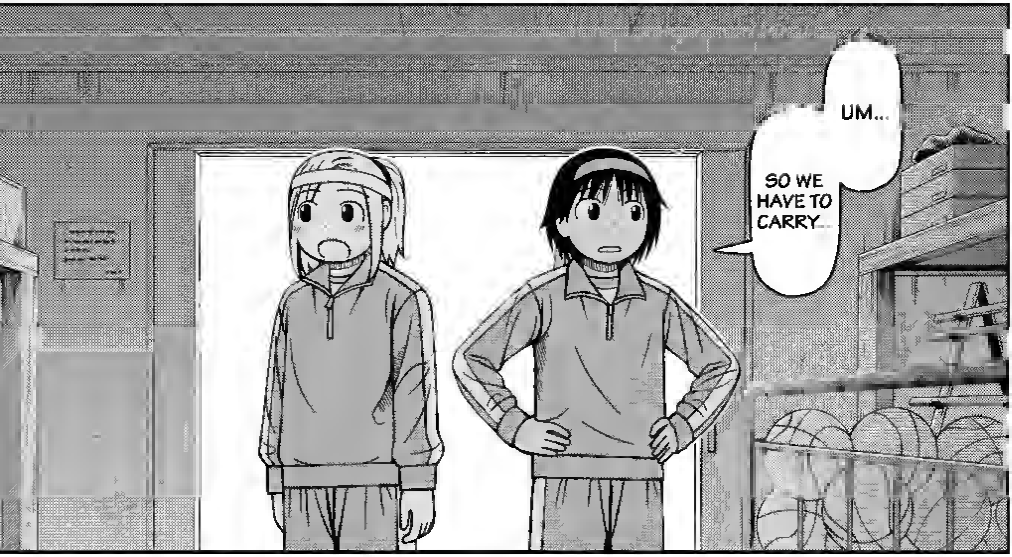


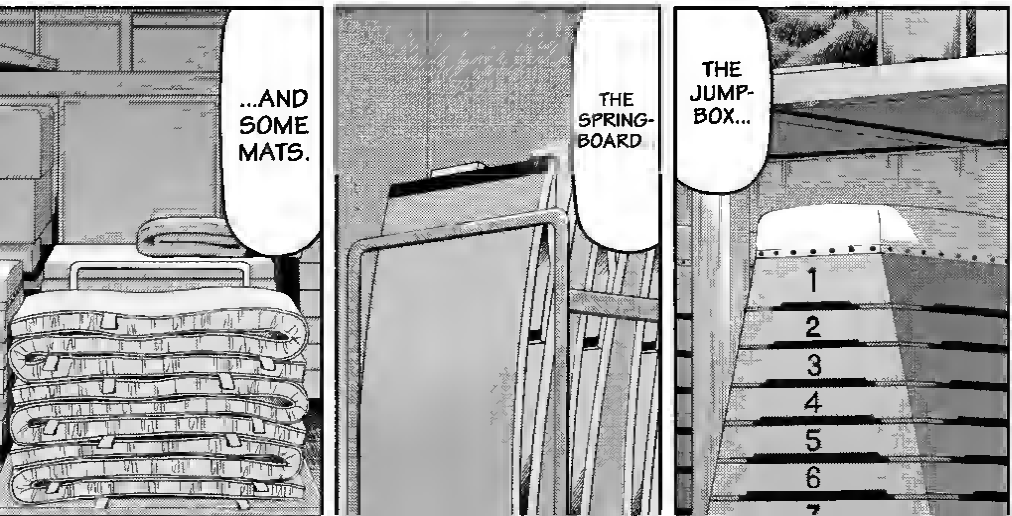
NEXT WEEK'S A KANTO COLOR!

CHAPTER 73

THE DUTIES OF A GYM REPRESENTATIVE

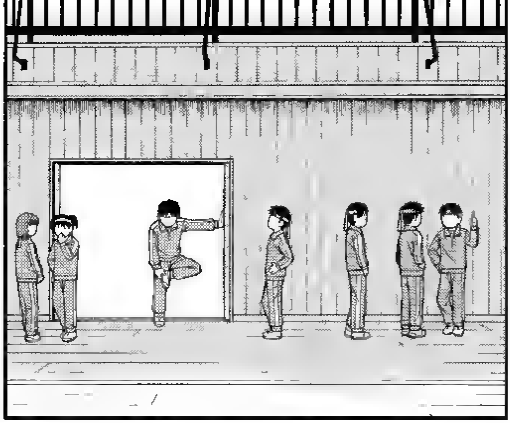

THE DUTIES OF A GYM REPRESENTATIVE
THIS STORY: WHEN SHIMAZAKI SHUTARO LOST HIS JOB IN TOKYO, HE RETURNED HOME TO THE COUNTRYSIDE, AND HIS BEAUTIFUL LITTLE NIECE WITH SILVER HAIR AND BLUE EYES WAS THERE TO GREET HIM. THIS IS A RELAXING, ENJOYABLE STORY ABOUT AN UNCLE AND HIS NIECE, AND THEIR LIFE OUTSIDE THE CITY.

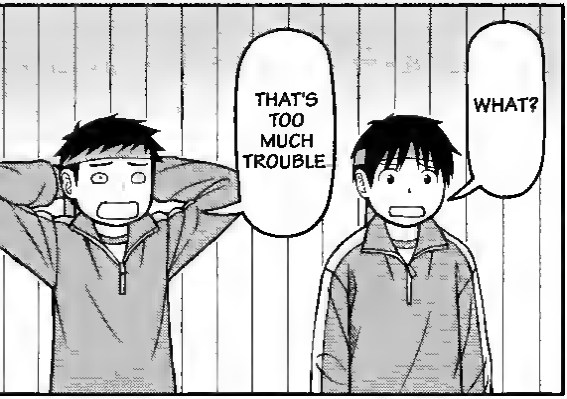

UM...
SO WE HAVE TO CARRY...


...AND SOME MATS.
THE SPRING-BOARD
THE JUMP-BOX...
1
2
3
4
5
6

ALL THAT?
WE CAN'T CARRY ALL THAT BY OURSELVES.
SHIMAZAKI NINA
A 10-YEAR-OLD SILVER-HAIRED BLUE-EYED GIRL BORN IN FINLAND
SHUTARO'S NIECE
MORISAWA ARISA
VERY ENERGETIC AND GOOD AT SPORTS, BUT BAD AT STUDYING
NINA'S CLASSMATE
KOHINA MAKOTO
THE CLASS REPRESENTATIVE AND A VERY SERIOUS GIRL
NINA'S CLASSMATE
THAT'S WHY I TOLD YOU WE SHOULDN'T BE REPRE-SENTA-TIVES.
...BUT I GUESS I'M THE ONE WHO SAID WE SHOULD DO IT.
WELL, SENSEI DID SAY TO GET HELP FROM THE BOYS.
LET'S GO GET THE GUYS.
OKAY.

HEY, GUYS.



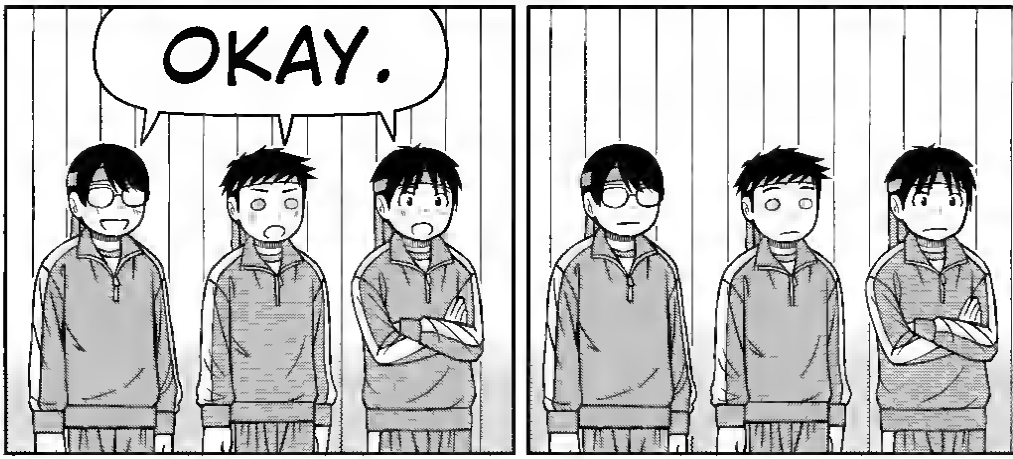

THAT'S TOO MUCH TROUBLE.
WHAT?

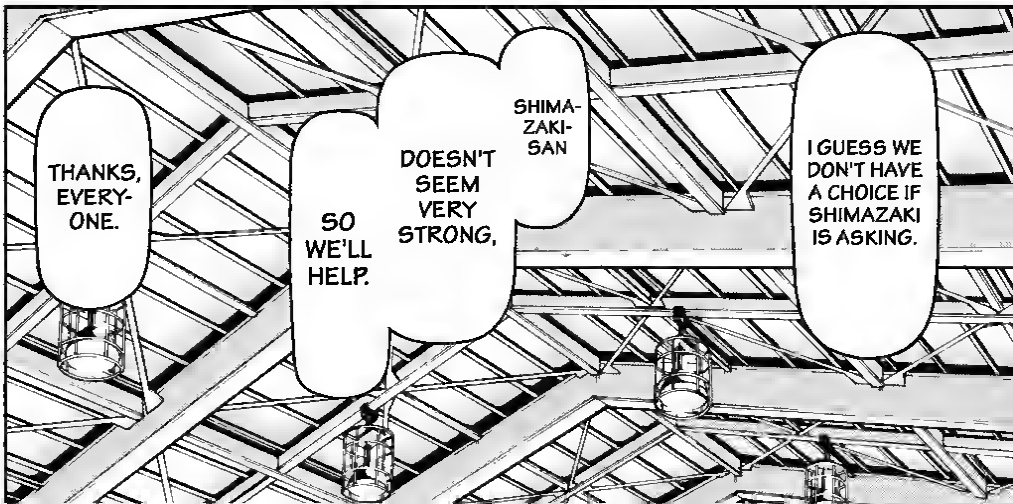
HEY, HELP US GET THE THE JUMP BOX AND MATS OUT.

EH?
DO IT YOUR-SELF.
MORISAWA, YOU'RE THE ONE THAT SAID YOU'D BE GYM REP.

WHO'RE YOU CALLING A GORILLA, HUH?
WELL, SINCE YOU'RE A GORILLA, GORISAWA, I'M SURE YOU CAN CARRY THE JUMP BOX BY YOUR-SELF.

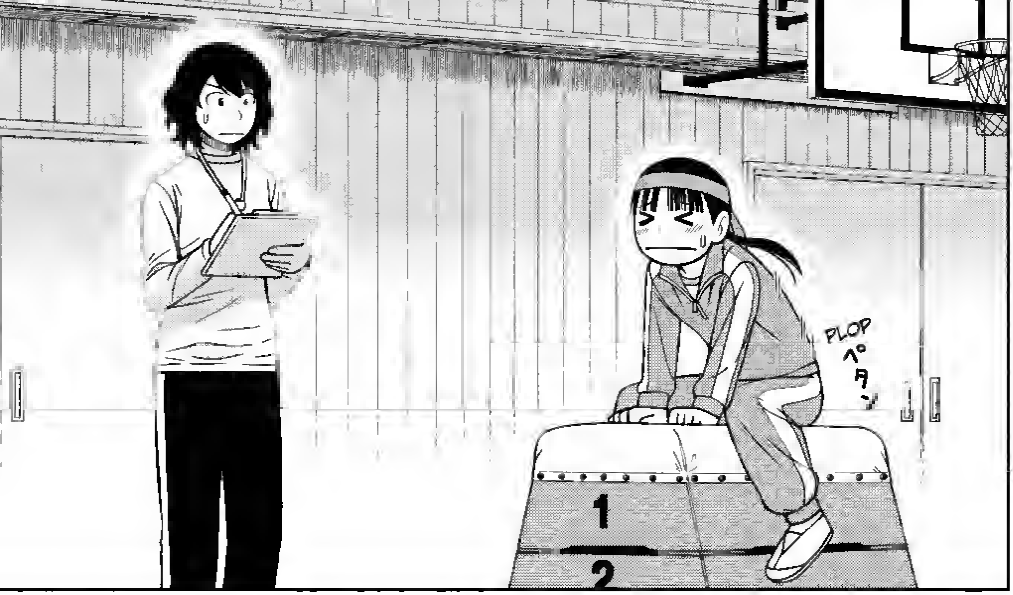
HELP US OUT, OKAY?
NINA AND ARISA-CHAN CAN'T CARRY THE MATS BY THEMSELVES


OKAY.


I GUESS WE DON'T HAVE A CHOICE IF SHIMAZAKI IS ASKING.
SHIMA-ZAKI-SAN DOESN'T SEEM VERY STRONG, SO WE'LL HELP.
THANKS, EVERY-ONE.

ISN'T THIS GREAT, ARISA-CHAN?
EVERY-ONE'S GONNA HELP OUT
LET'S GET THIS DONE BEFORE SENSEI GETS HERE.
先生くる前に
さっさとはこぼうぜ
YEAH.
おう
LEAVE THE HEAVY THINGS TO US.
...
WHAT'S THE MATTER, ARISA-CHAN?
...
I-
I'M NOT SATISFIED WITH HOW THINGS WENT!
?

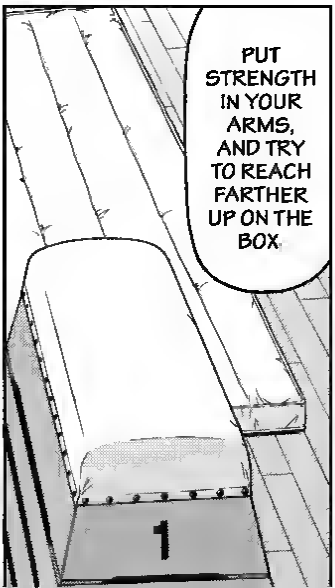
YES!
NEXT.
KOHI-NATA.
タタタタ... STEP STEP STEP
BAM
I'M SCARED
1
2

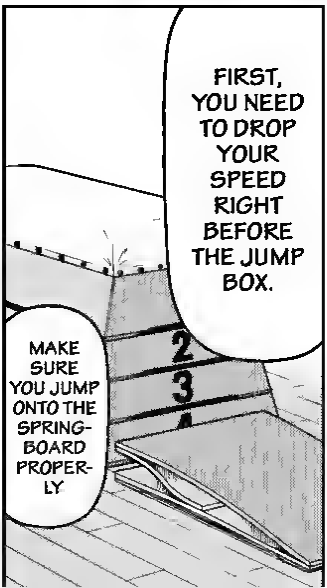

PLOP
ペタン
1
2

I'M SORRY...

KOHINATA,
YOU NEED TO AT LEAST BE ABLE TO JUMP 4.

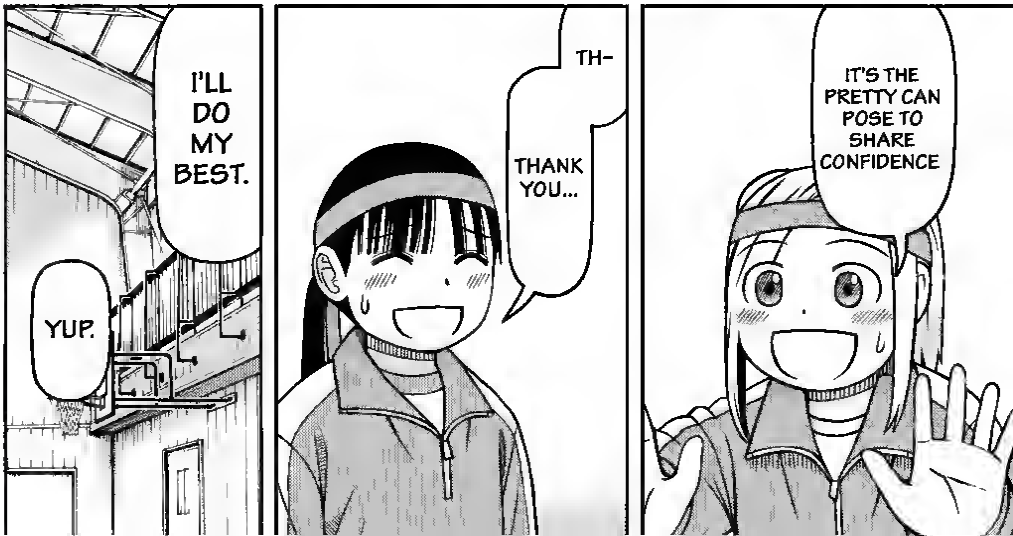
WHEN YOU JUMP, SPREAD YOUR LEGS.
GOT IT?
YES
1
2
3
4

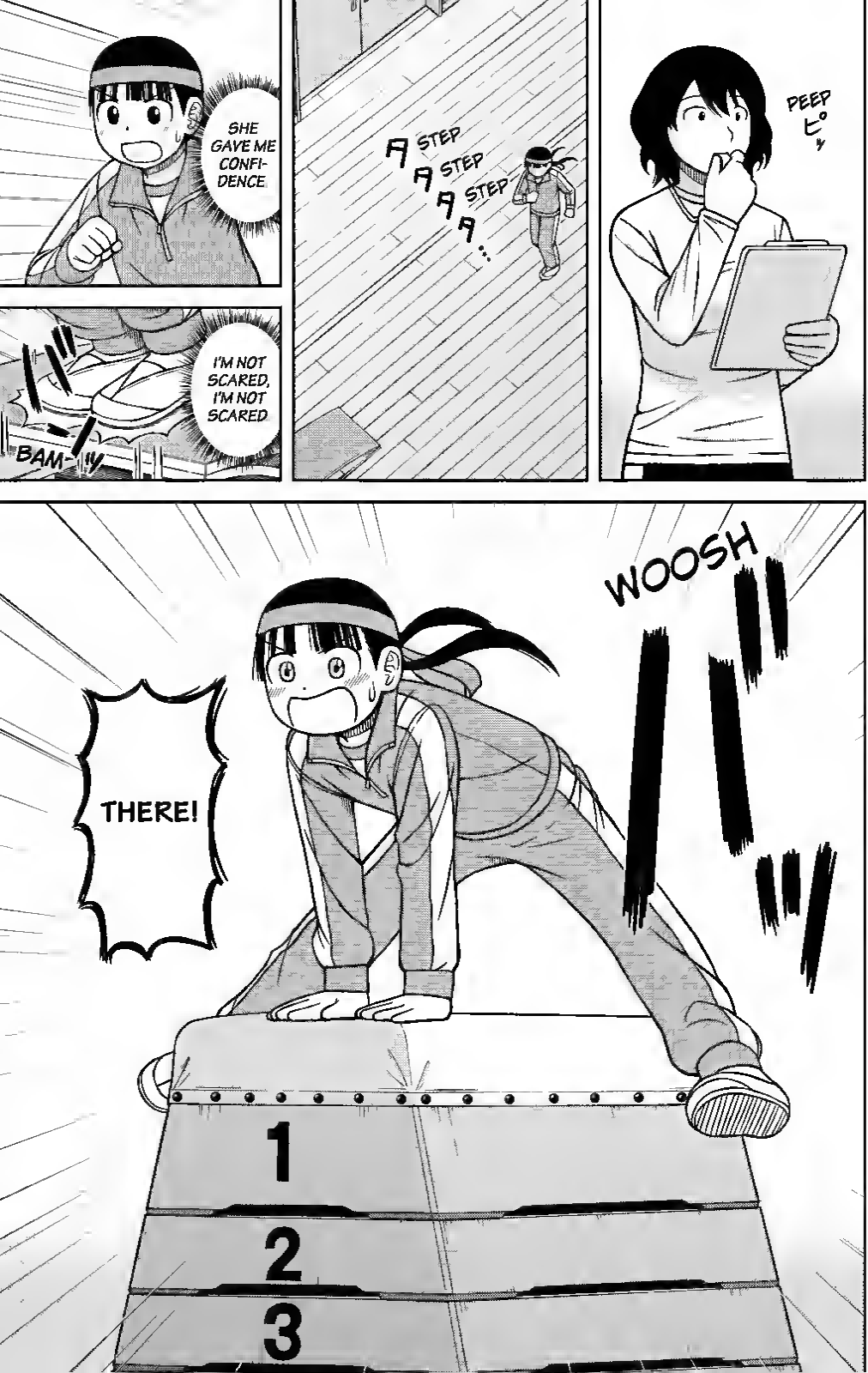

PUT STRENGTH IN YOUR ARMS, AND TRY TO REACH FARTHER UP ON THE BOX.
1


FIRST, YOU NEED TO DROP YOUR SPEED RIGHT BEFORE THE JUMP BOX.
MAKE SURE YOU JUMP ONTO THE SPRING-BOARD PROPER-LY
2
3

YEAH
YOU CAN DO IT!
MAKOTO-CHAN,
OKAY.
ALL RIGHT, KOHINATA, ONE MORE TIME

WHAT'S THAT?
?
THERE!
ONE SEC...
Z


YUP.
I'LL DO MY BEST.
TH-
THANK YOU...
IT'S THE PRETTY CAN POSE TO SHARE CONFIDENCE


SHE GAVE ME CONFI-DENCE
STEP
STEP
STEP
PEEP
ピッ
I'M NOT SCARED, I'M NOT SCARED
BAM-
WOOSH
THERE!
1
2
3

I DID IT...
ALL RIGHT.
KOHINA SUCCESS-FULLY JUMPED 4.
STEP
スタッ
THANK YOU.
CONGRATULATIONS, MAKOTO-CHAN!
マコトちゃん よかったねー。
3
4
5
ALL RIGHT, WE'RE DOING 5 NOW.
はーい
OKAY.

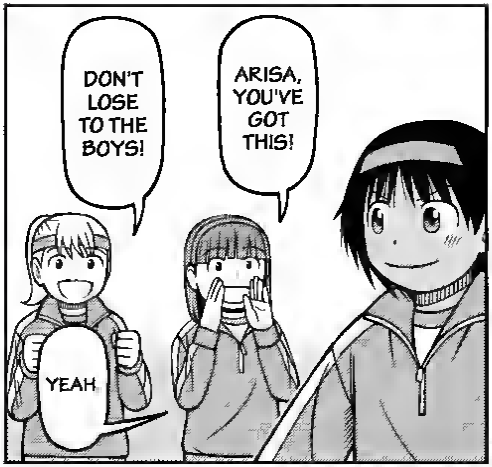
WOOSH

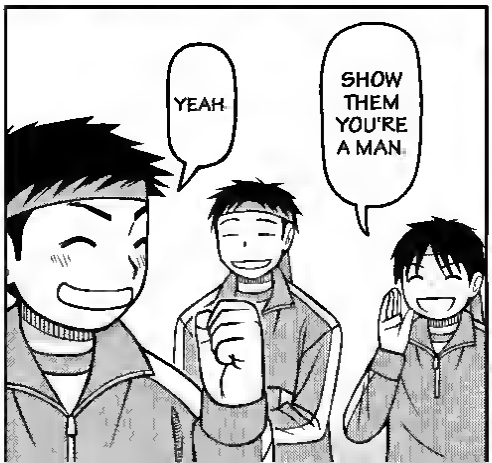
着地失敗ね
YOU MISSED THE LANDING
CRASH
ドサッ
1
2
3
4
5

BAM
1
2
3
4
5
6

OKAY, YOU DIDN'T PASS 6.
はい 阿部は6段失敗ー!っ
わっ 高っ
WHOA, ACK.
1
2

OKAY, FOR THE LAST 8...
4
5
6
7
8
OKAY, SHIMAZAKI DIDN'T PASS 7.
はい
志摩崎
7段失敗
1
2
3
4

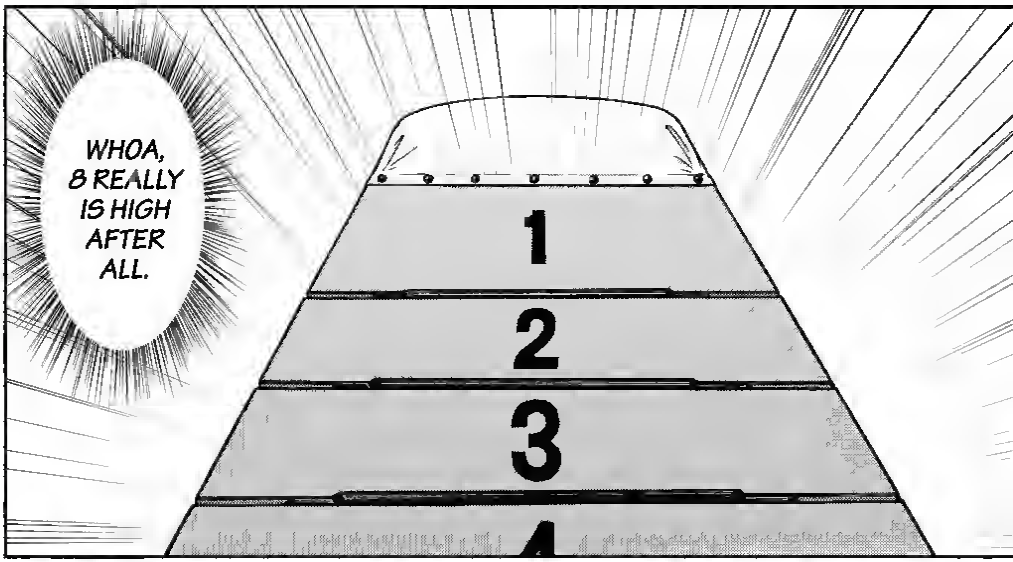

DON'T LOSE TO THE BOYS!
ARISA, YOU'VE GOT THIS!
YEAH.


YEAH.
SHOW THEM YOU'RE A MAN.

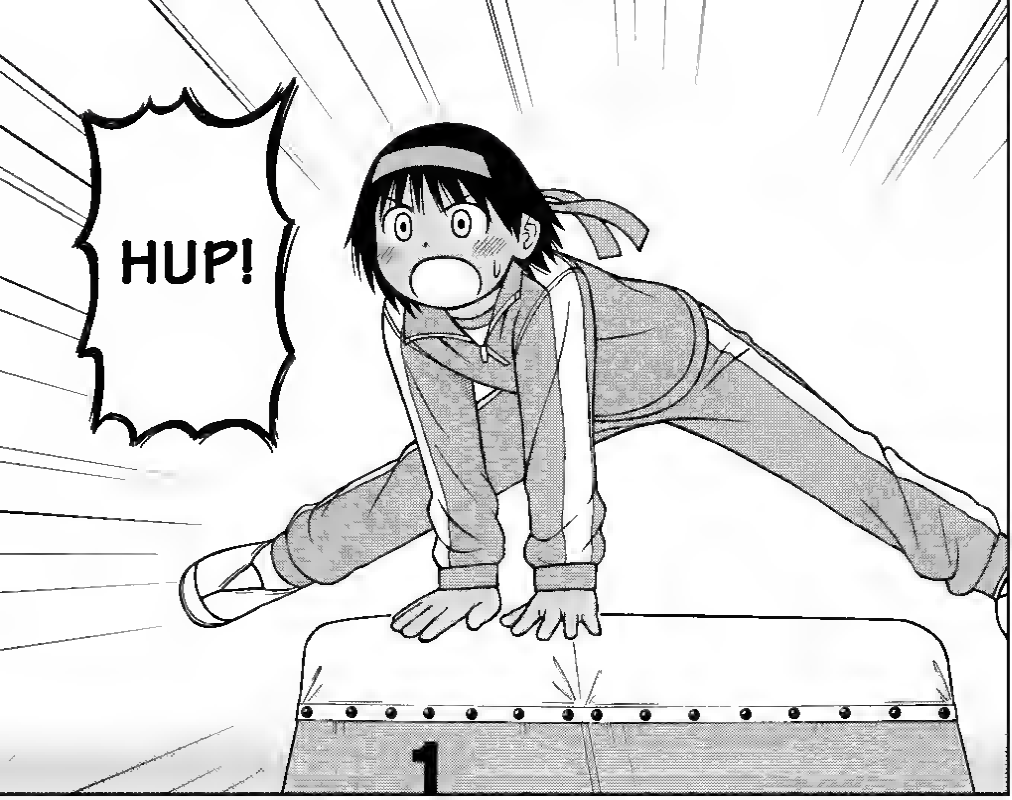
WE'LL HAVE TAKAHASHI AND MORISAWA

STEP
STEP
STEP
PEEP
ピッ
HUP!
BAM
NEXT.
MORI-SAWA!
YES.
IT'S SO HIGH.
たっけー
OKAY,
SO TAKA-HASHI DIDN'T PASS 8.
YEAH
THIS ISN'T HAPPEN-ING.
1
2
3
4
5
6

STEP
STEP
STEP
NINA IS SENDING ARISA-CHAN CONFI-DENCE, TOO.
TH-THANKS.


WHOA, B REALLY IS HIGH AFTER ALL.
1
2
3

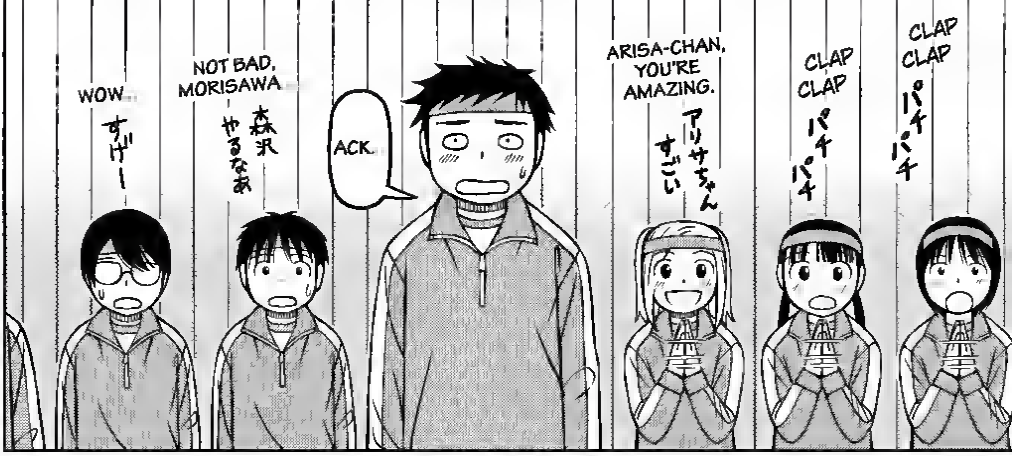
BAM
BUT IF I JUMP JUST RIGHT...

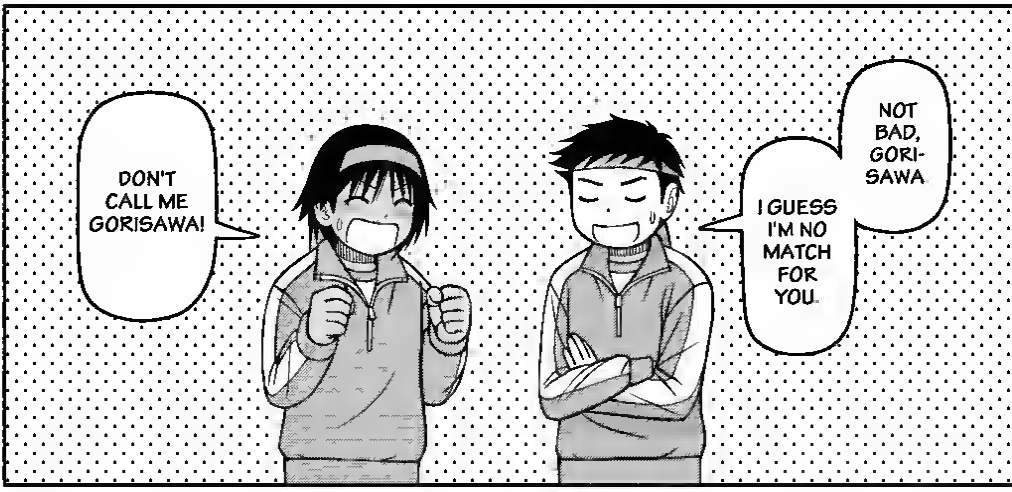

HUP!
1

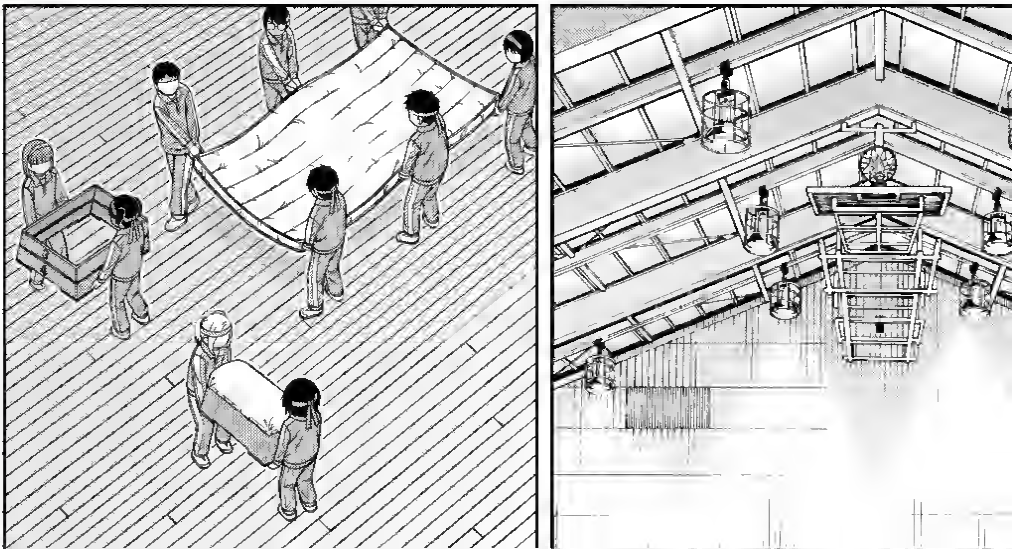
MORISAWA CLEARED 8

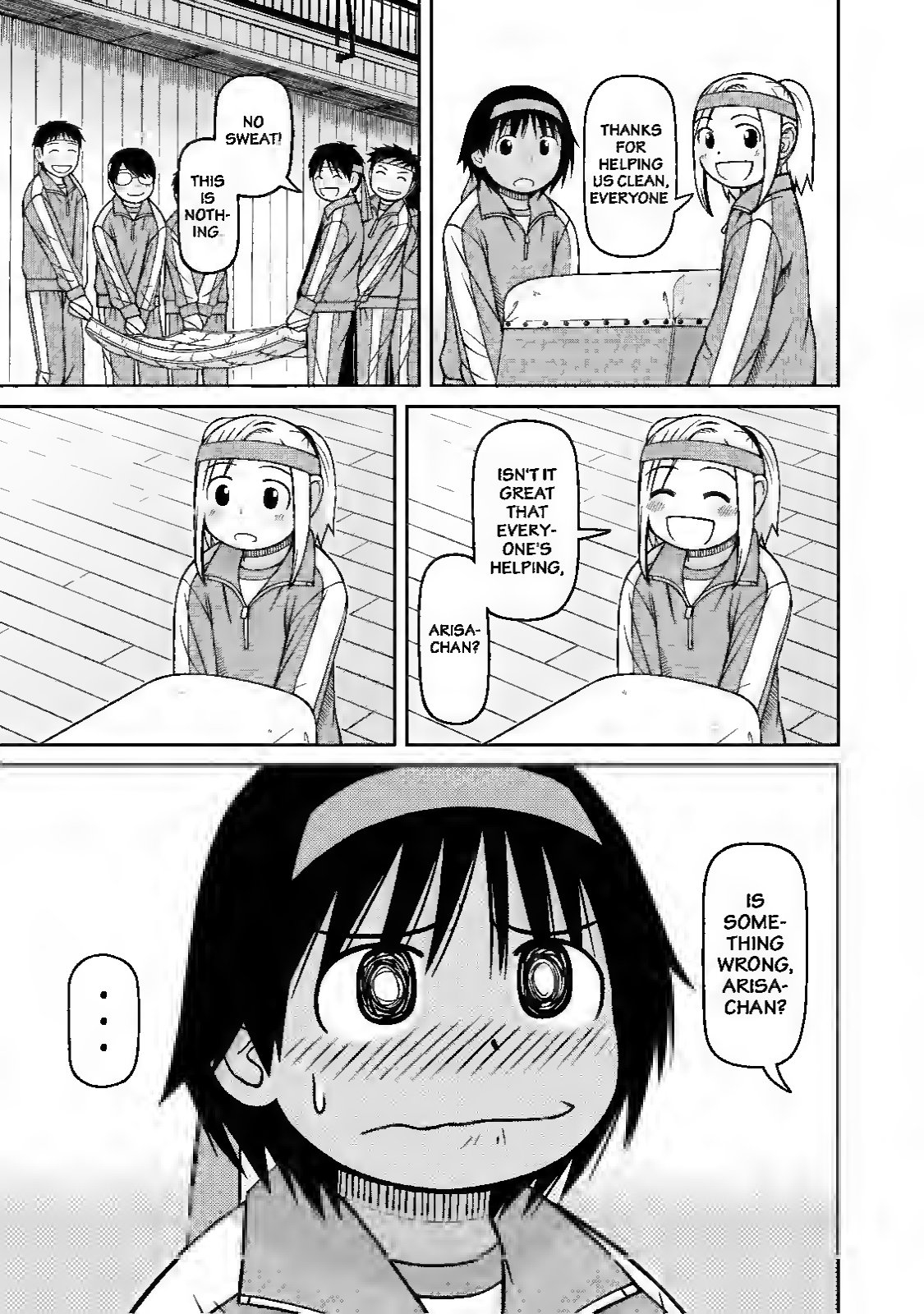
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
TA
STEP

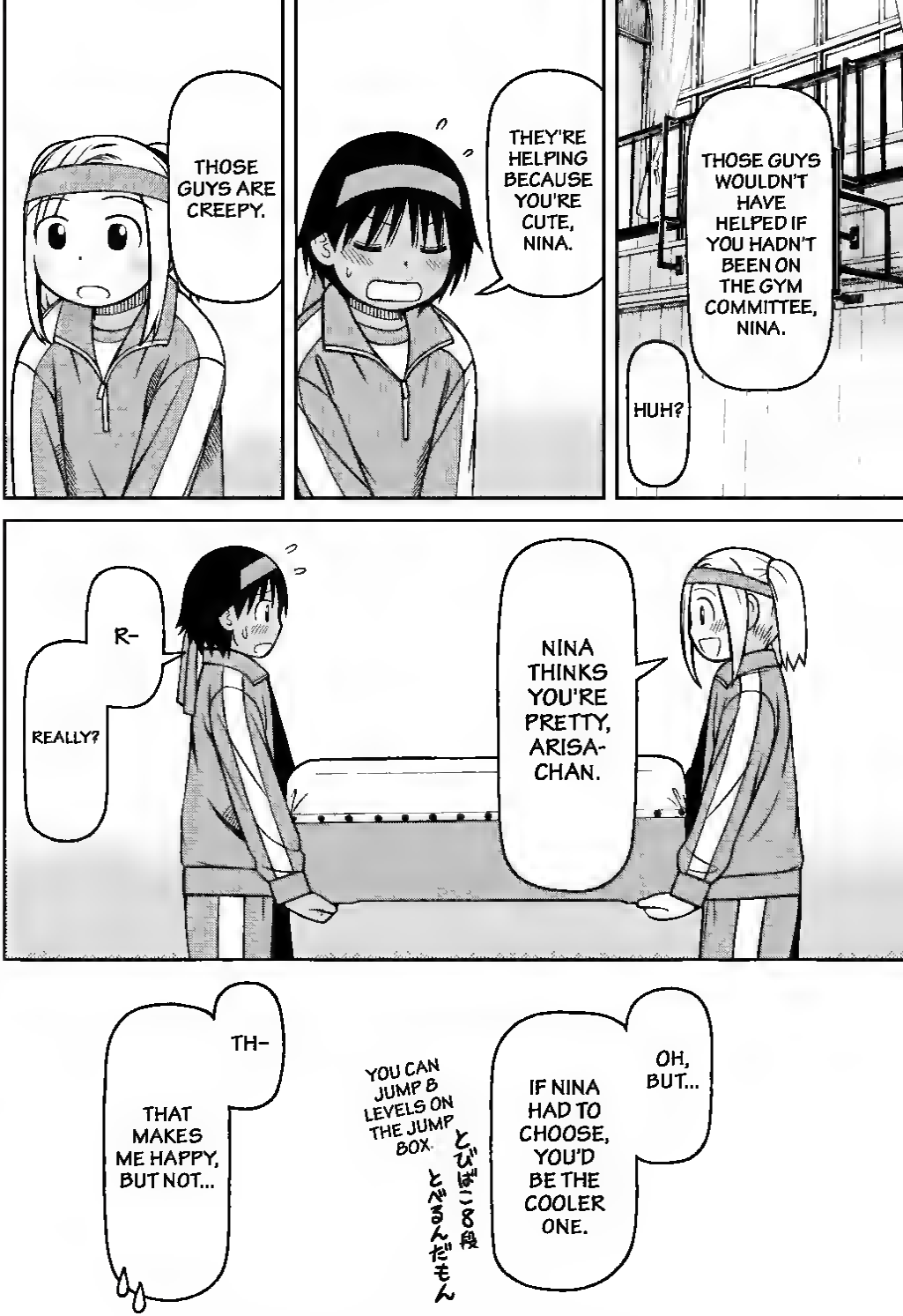
YEAH!


WOW.
すげー
NOT BAD, MORISAWA
森沢やるなあ
ACK.
ARISA-CHAN, YOU'RE AMAZING.
アリサちゃんすごい
CLAP CLAP
パチパチ
CLAP CLAP
パチパチ


DON'T CALL ME GORISAWA!
NOT BAD, GORI-SAWA.
I GUESS I'M NO MATCH FOR YOU.




NO SWEAT!
THIS IS NOTHING
THANKS FOR HELPING US CLEAN, EVERYONE
ISN'T IT GREAT THAT EVERYONE'S HELPING, ARISA-CHAN?
...
IS SOMETHING WRONG, ARISA-CHAN?


THOSE GUYS ARE CREEPY.
THEY'RE HELPING BECAUSE YOU'RE CUTE, NINA.
THOSE GUYS WOULDN'T HAVE HELPED IF YOU HADN'T BEEN ON THE GYM COMMITTEE, NINA.
HUH?
R-
REALLY?
NINA THINKS YOU'RE PRETTY, ARISA-CHAN.
TH-
THAT MAKES ME HAPPY, BUT NOT...
YOU CAN JUMP 8 LEVELS ON THE JUMP BOX.
とびばこ8段とべるんだもん
OH, BUT...
IF NINA HAD TO CHOOSE, YOU'D BE THE COOLER ONE.

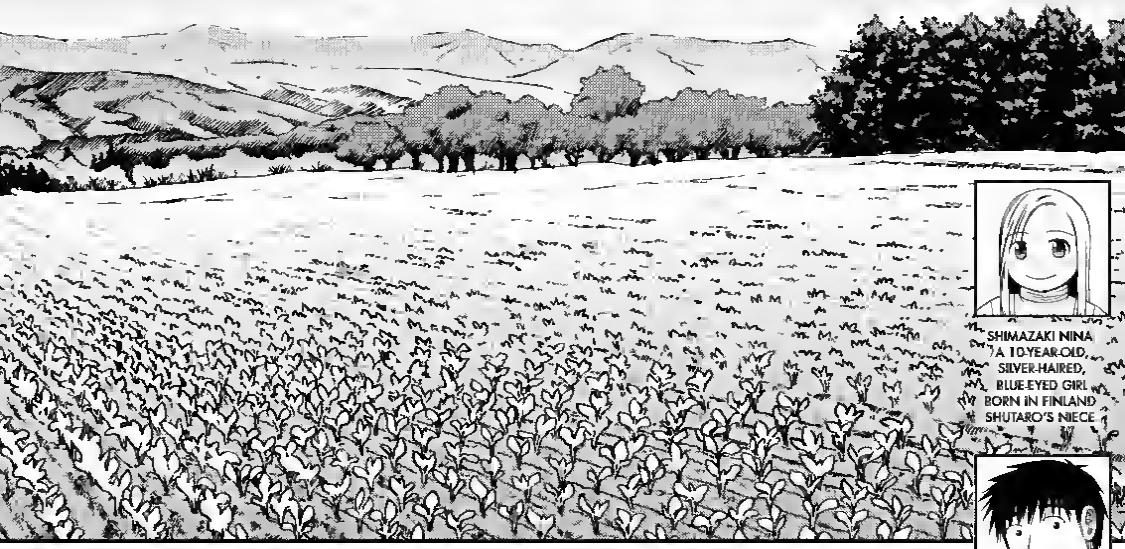
THE COMPLICATED HEART OF A GIRL...

CHAPTER 74
BECOME DELICIOUS

A 27-YEAR-OLD UNCLE AND HIS 10-YEAR-OLD NIECE LIVE LIFE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE, COMFORTING EACH OTHER.

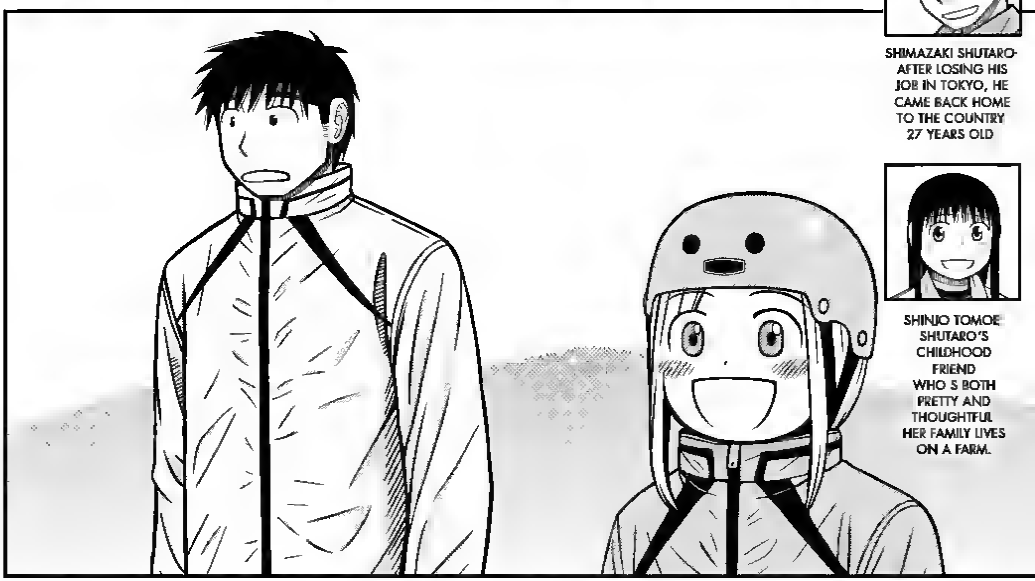
AS SPRING SPROUTS, THE FIELDS GRADUALLY GROW BUSIER.

NINA IS VERY EXCITED ABOUT THE HUGE FIELD SPRAWLING BEFORE HER EYES!



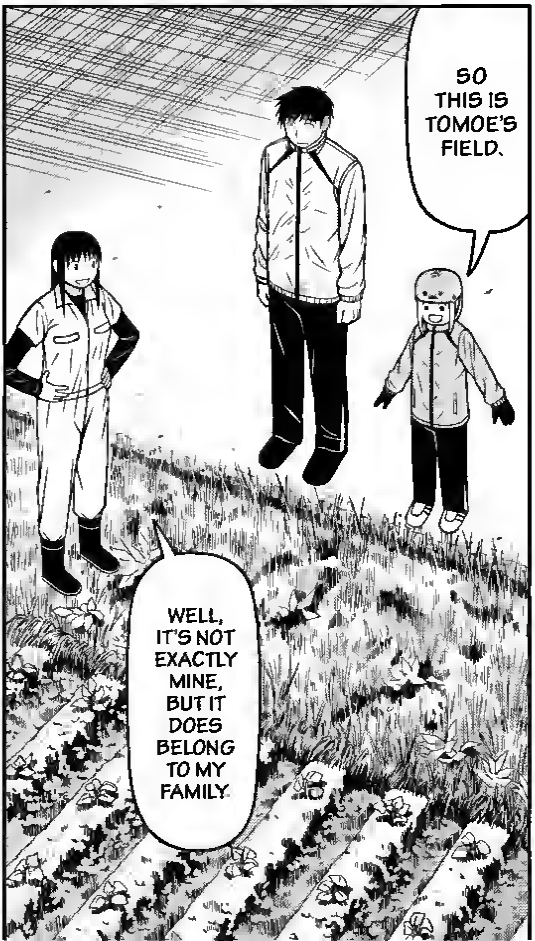
SHIMAZAKI NINA
A 10-YEAR-OLD, SILVER-HAIRED, BLUE-EYED GIRL BORN IN FINLAND
SHUTARO'S NIECE

SHIMAZAKI SHUTARO
AFTER LOSING HIS JOB IN TOKYO, HE CAME BACK HOME TO THE COUNTRY
27 YEARS OLD

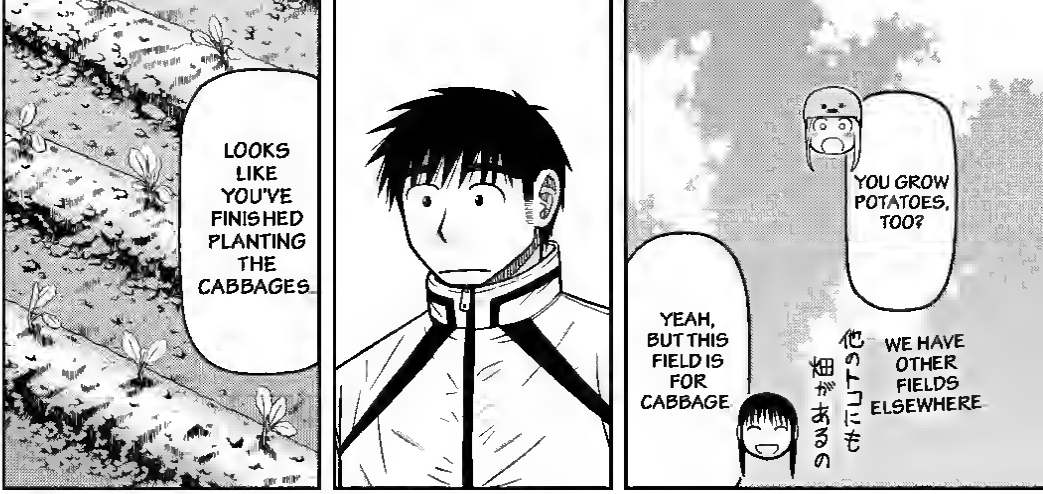


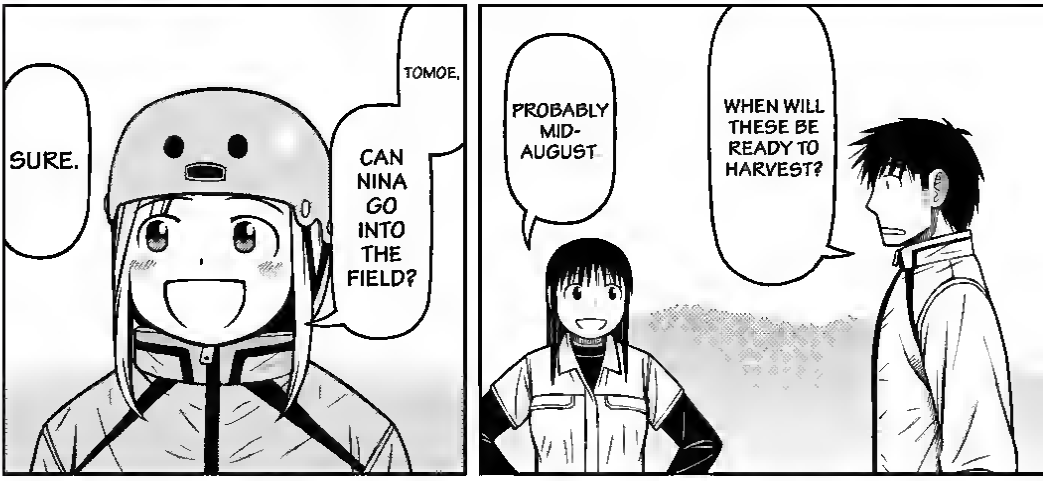
SHINJO TOMOE
SHUTARO'S CHILDHOOD FRIEND
WHO S BOTH PRETTY AND THOUGHTFUL
HER FAMILY LIVES ON A FARM.

IT'S BEEN SOME TIME
SINCE I WAS LAST HERE.


SO THIS IS TOMOE'S FIELD.
WELL, IT'S NOT EXACTLY MINE, BUT IT DOES BELONG TO MY FAMILY.

I THINK THE LAST TIME I WAS HERE WAS WHEN I CAME TO DIG UP POTATOES IN GRADE SCHOOL.
YEAH, TRUE.
HOW NOSTALGIC.
なつかしいわね


LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE FINISHED PLANTING THE CABBAGES
YOU GROW POTATOES, TOO?
YEAH, BUT THIS FIELD IS FOR CABBAGE
WE HAVE OTHER FIELDS ELSEWHERE
他のトコにも畑があるの


TOMOE, CAN NINA GO INTO THE FIELD?
SURE.
WHEN WILL THESE BE READY TO HARVEST?
PROBABLY MID-AUGUST

I'M COMING, TOO
じゃあ俺も…
MAKE SURE YOU DON'T STEP ON THE SEEDLINGS
苗ふまないように気をつけてね

YOU CAN'T COME.

I TOLD YOU BEFORE.
I WILL NOT LET YOU SET FOOT ON OUR FIELDS.
HUH?
WHY?

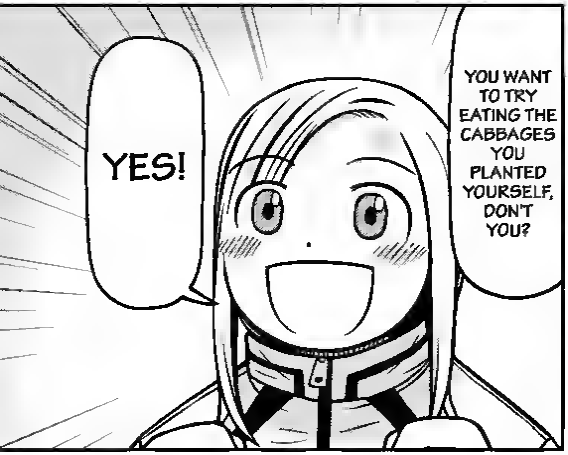
...
NOPE.
IT WOULDN'T HURT FOR ME TO WALK IN...
IT...

I'M REALLY SORRY...
...ABOUT THAT ONE TIME.
I'M KIDDING.
NOW, COME ON OVER.
RIGHT...

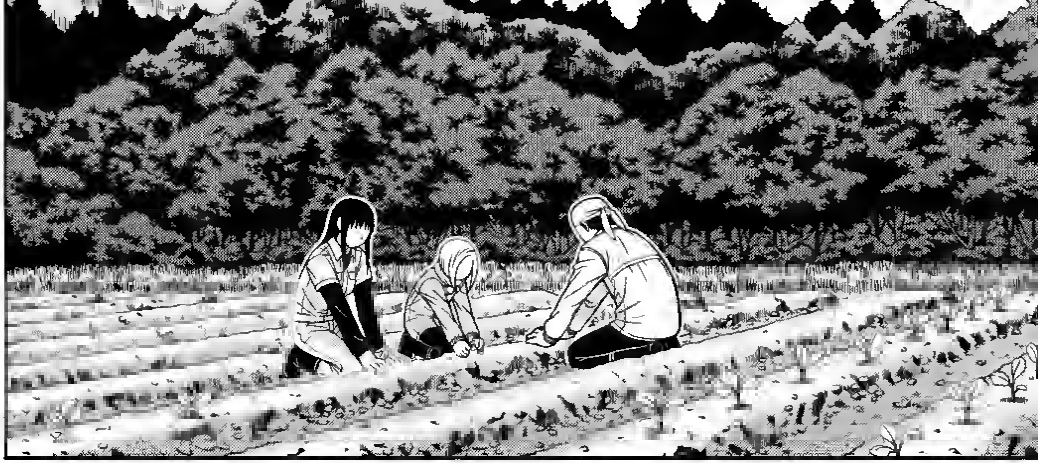
JEEZ, SHUTA-RO.
YOU MUST'VE OONE SOME-THING TO MAKE TOMOE MAD AGAIN.
DON'T DO THAT.
YEAH.
THIS IS A CABBAGE SEEDLING.
WOW...
SO THIS TURNS INTO A ROUND CABBAGE.
HOW ODD.
YEAH.

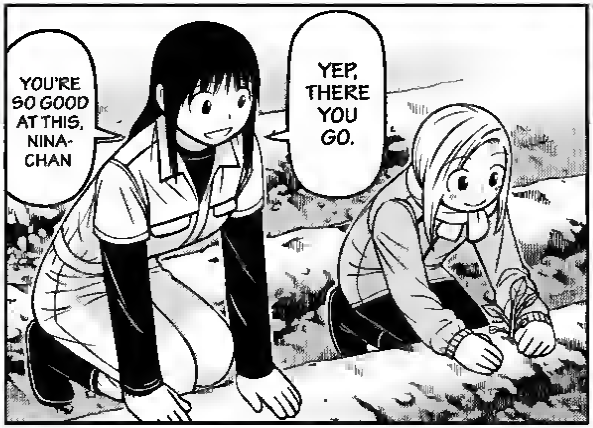
WELL, WE'RE MOSTLY DONE.
AREN'T YOU DONE PLANTING ALL THE SEEDLINGS?
YDU CAN SEE THAT WE HAVEN'T PLANTED ANYTHING DVER THERE, RIGHT?
LOOK.
YEAH.
EH...
THANK YOU, TOMOE.
IT MIGHT BE A BIT HARD, BECAUSE THEY'RE PLANTED BY HAND, THOUGH.
NINA-CHAN MENTIONED THAT SHE WANTED TO PLANT SEEDLINGS BEFORE...
...SO I THOUGHT I MIGHT HAVE HER TRY PLANTING SOME.

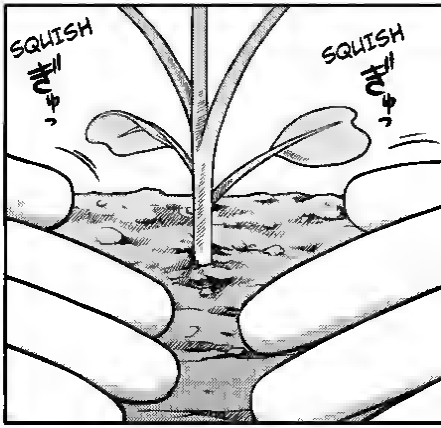
I'LL MAKE SURE TO KEEP AN EYE ON HER.
IT'LL BE FINE.
ARE YOU GOING TO BE ABLE TO SELL THE ONES NINA PLANTS?
YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?

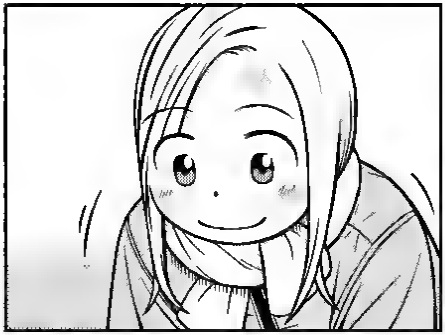

YES!
YOU WANT TO TRY EATING THE CABBAGES YOU PLANTED YOURSELF, DON'T YOU?

WOW, REALLY?
I PLAN TO GIVE THEM TO HER AS A PRESENT.
AND ONCE WE HARVEST SOME,

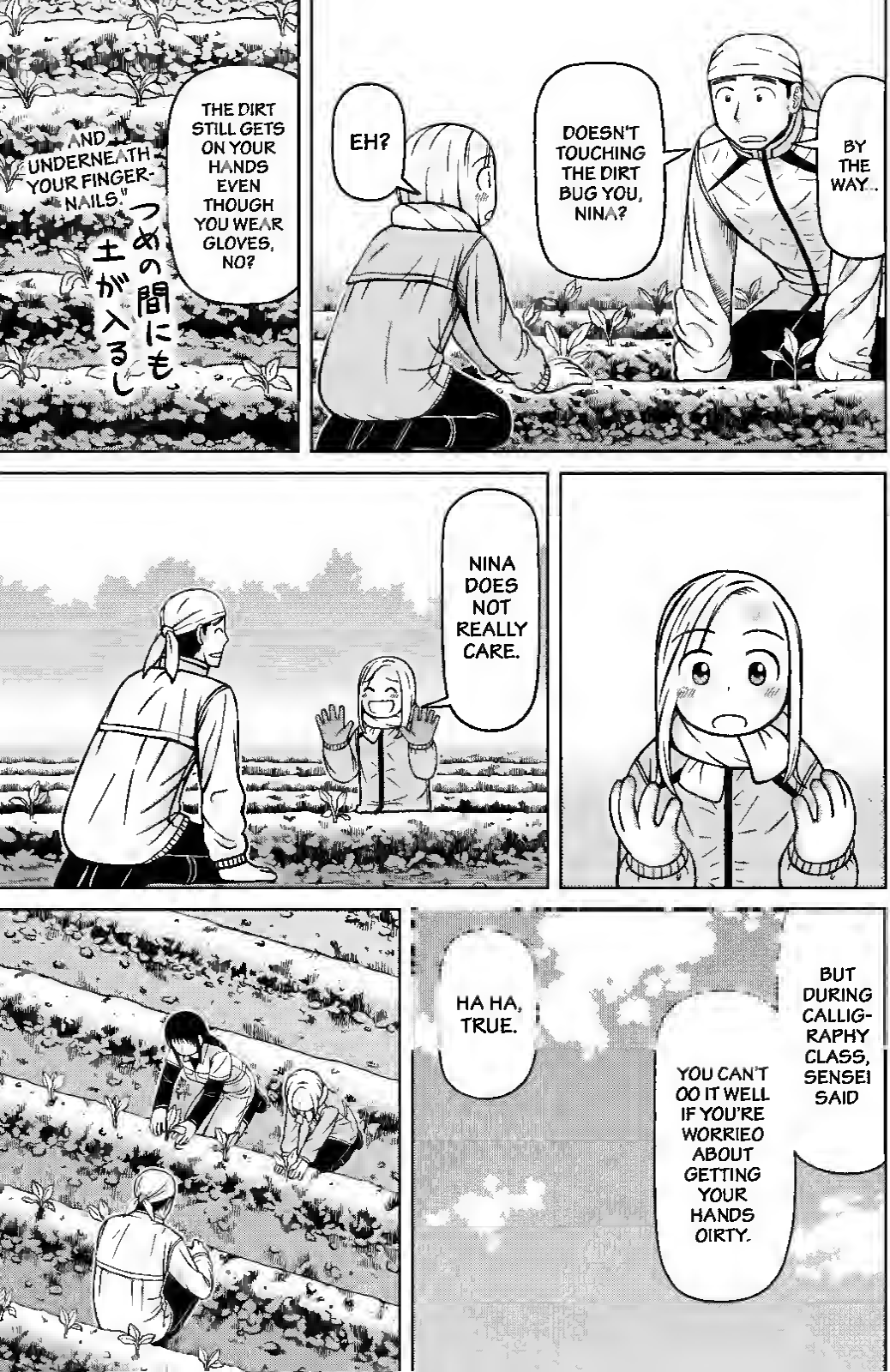



YOU'RE SO GOOD AT THIS, NINA-CHAN
YEP, THERE YOU GO.

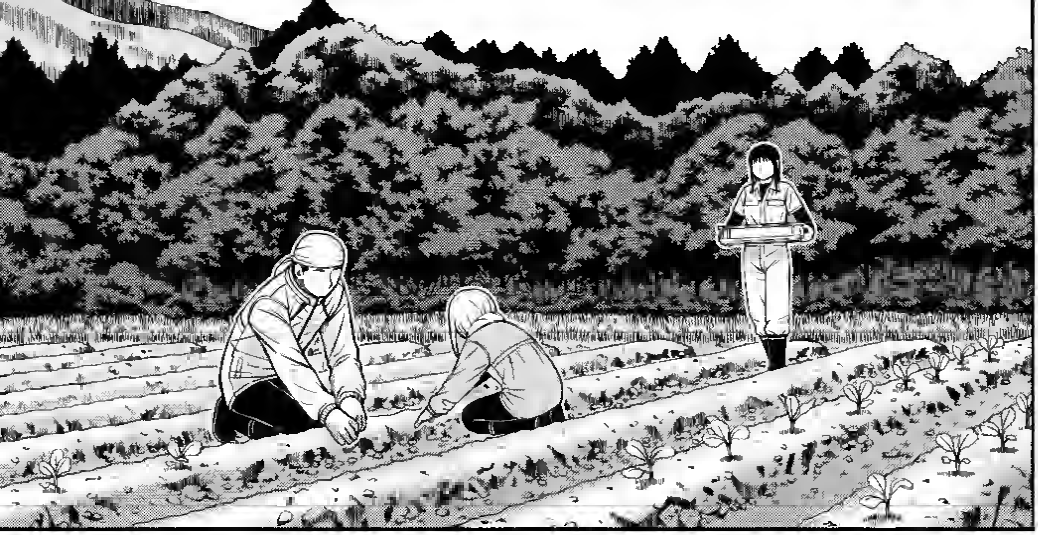

SQUISH
ぎゅっ
SQUISH
ぎゅっ

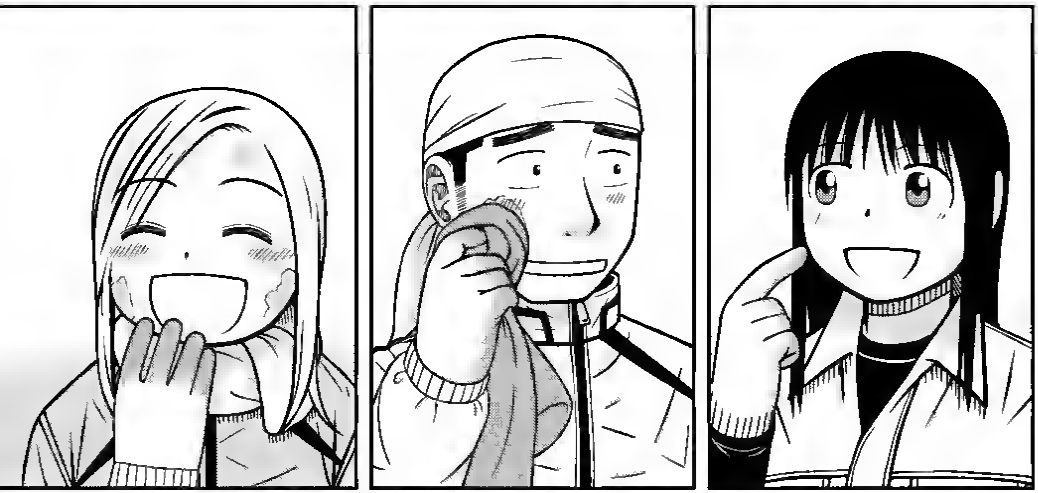


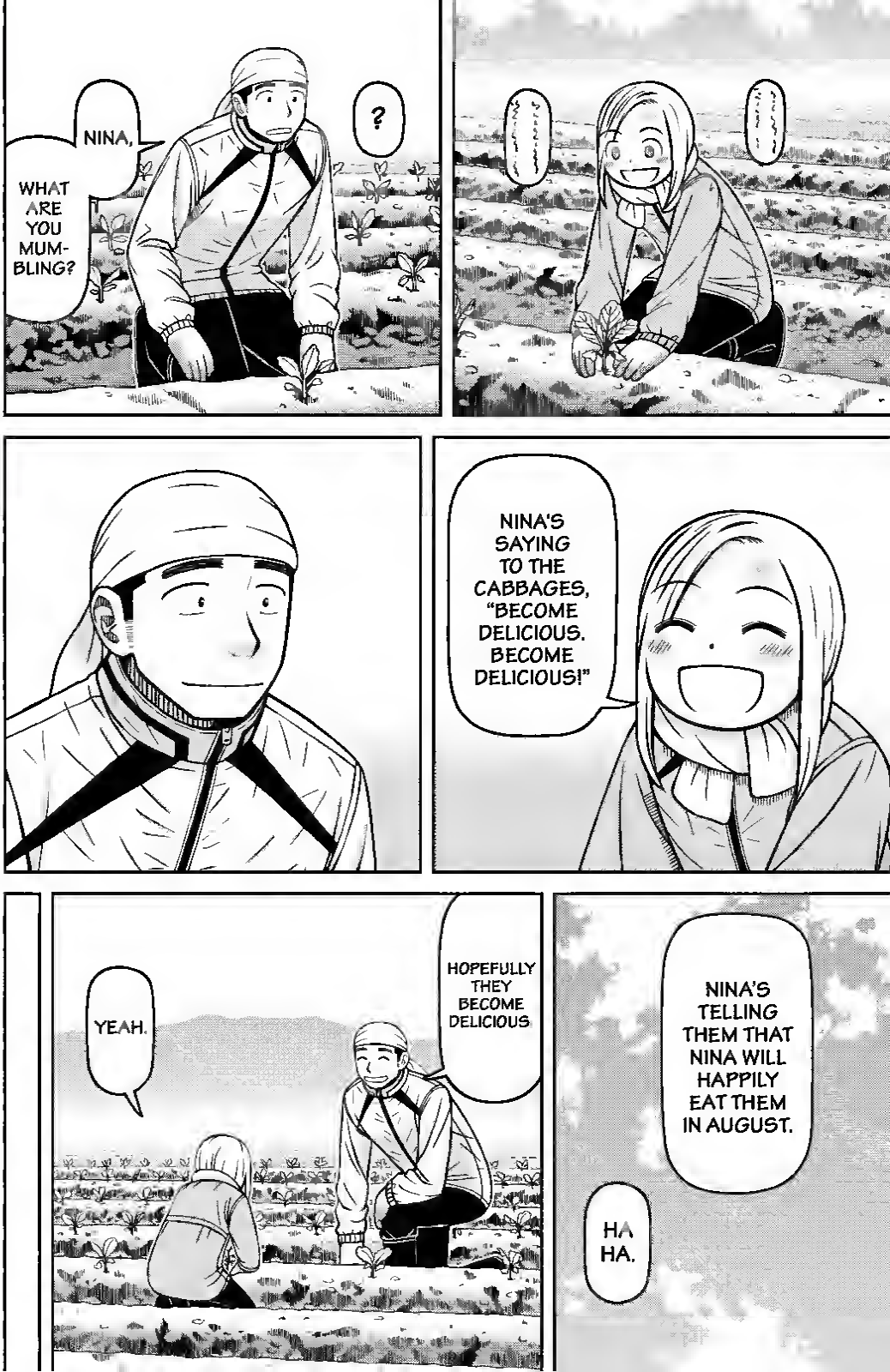
REALLY?
SHU, YOU'RE PRETTY BAD AT THIS
ACTU-ALLY...
ちから入れすぎ
YOU'RE USING TOO MUCH STRENGTH

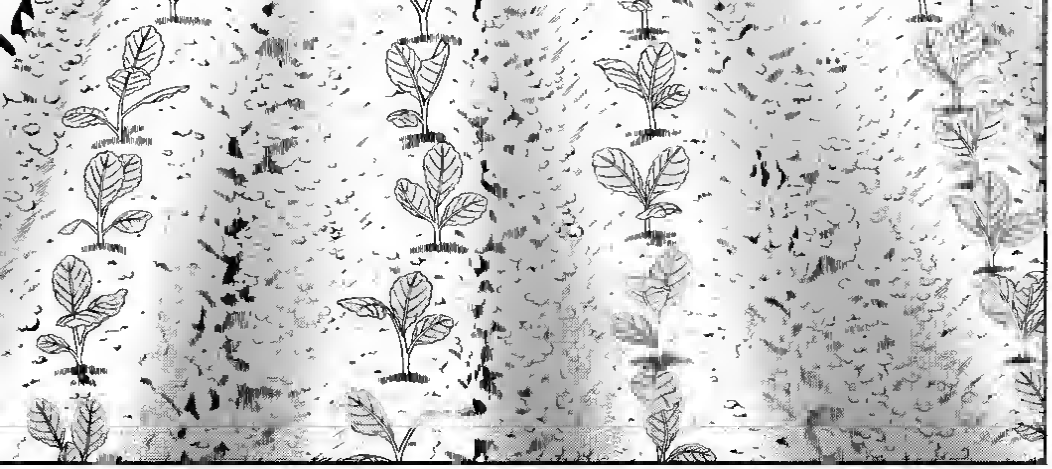

BY THE WAY...
DOESN'T TOUCHING THE DIRT BUG YOU, NINA?
EH?
THE DIRT STILL GETS ON YOUR HANDS EVEN THOUGH YOU WEAR GLOVES, NO?
AND UNDERNEATH YOUR FINGER-NAILS."
つめの間にも、土が入るし
NINA DOES NOT REALLY CARE.
BUT DURING CALLIG-RAPHY CLASS, SENSEI SAID
YOU CAN'T DO IT WELL IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT GETTING YOUR HANDS DIRTY.
HA HA, TRUE.

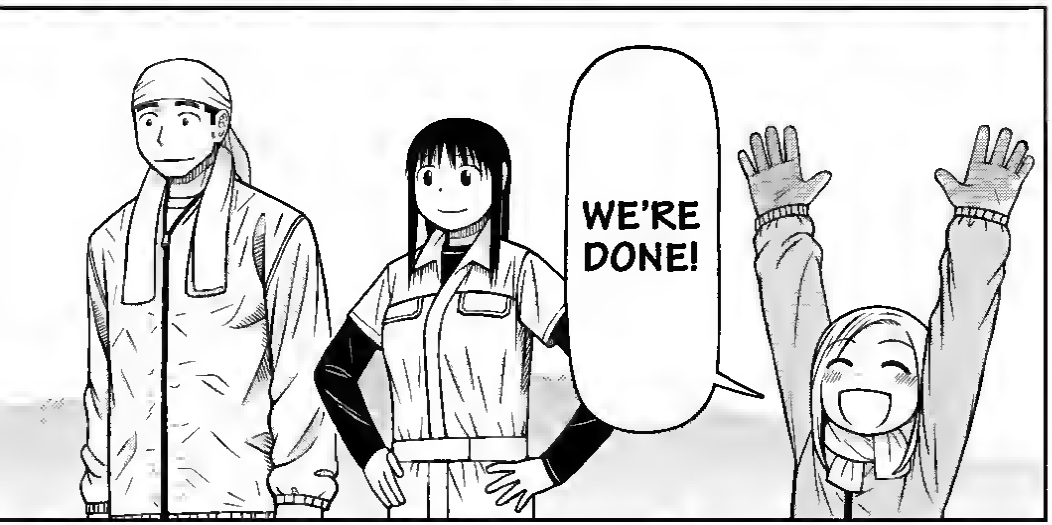
HUH?
TOMOE, WHAT'S THAT?
AH, THAT'S A SEEDLING TRANS-PLANTER.
ACTUALLY, WE USUALLY PLANT THE SEEDLINGS WITH THAT MACHINE.
HUH.
YOU DID A LOT OF WORK WITH YOUR BACK BENT LAST YEAR, DIDN'T YOU?
WELL, YEAH, I DID...
YOU REALLY START FEELING IT IN YOUR BACK, HUH.
OW, OW
IT'D BE PRETTY DIFFICULT TO PLANT THIS ENTIRE FIELD BY HAND, WOULDN'T IT?
RIGHT

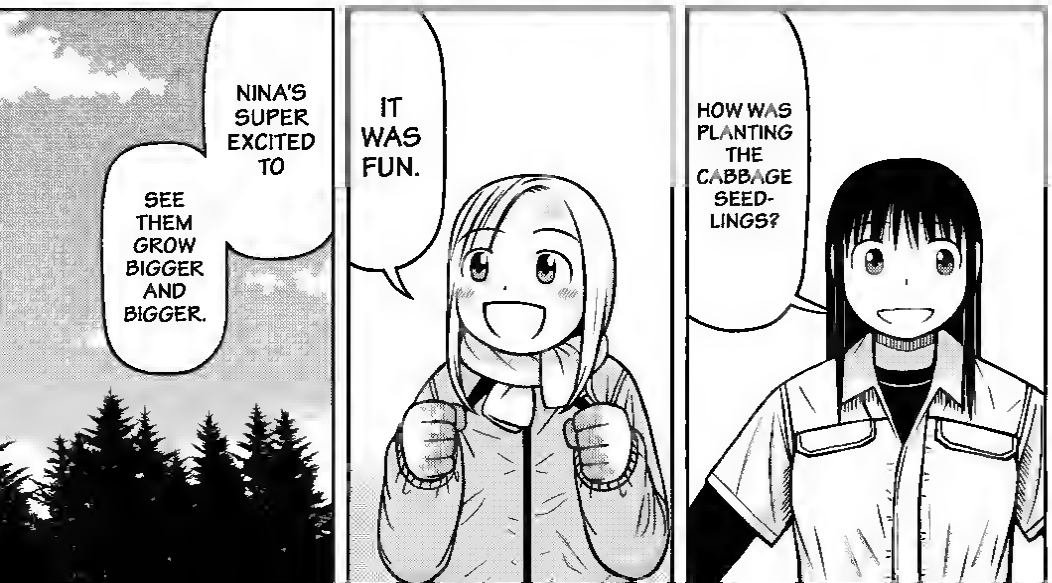


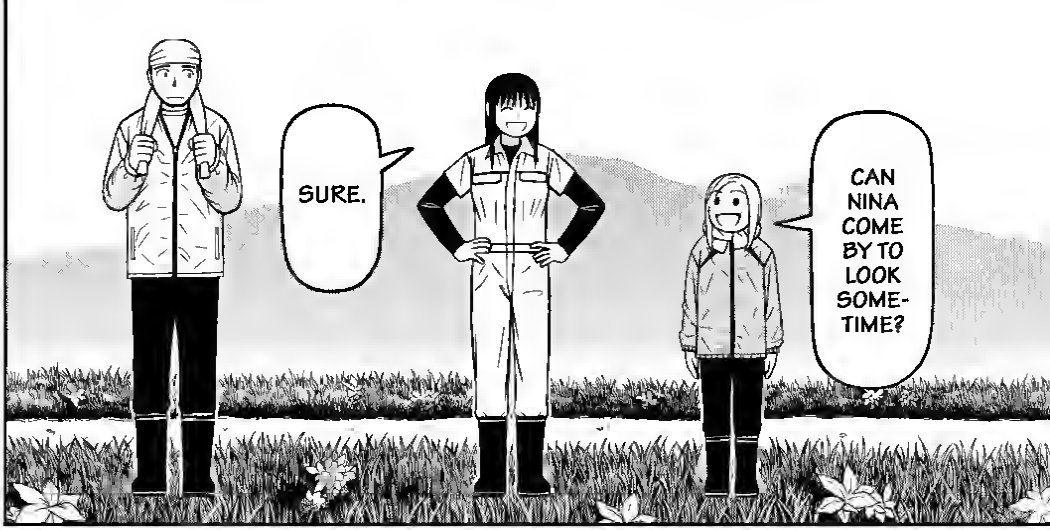


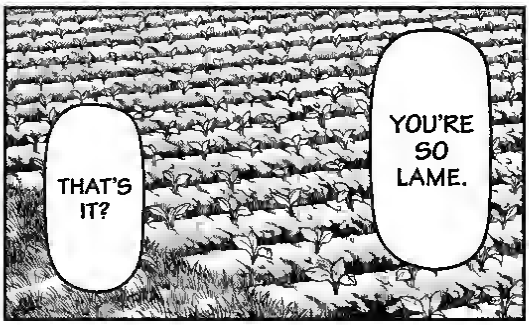

NINA,
WHAT ARE YOU MUM-BLING?
?
NINA'S SAYING TO THE CABBAGES, "BECOME DELICIOUS. BECOME DELICIOUS!"
HOPEFULLY THEY BECOME DELICIOUS
YEAH.
NINA'S TELLING THEM THAT NINA WILL HAPPILY EAT THEM IN AUGUST.
HA HA.

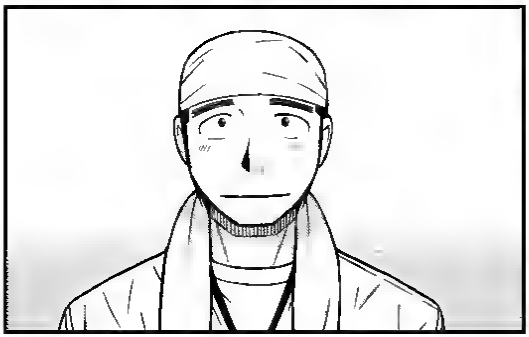


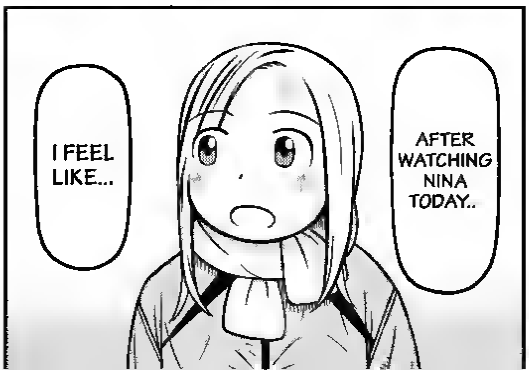

WE'RE DONE!

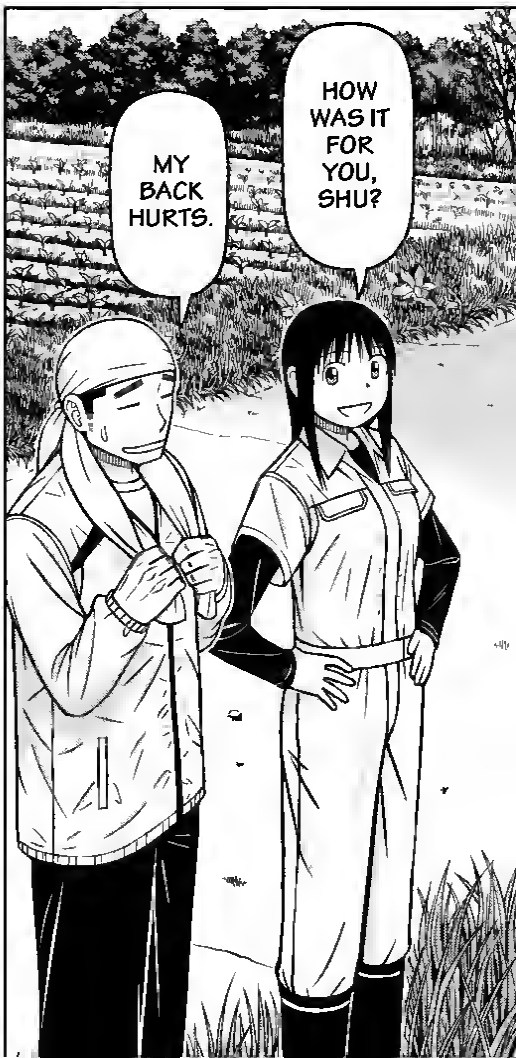

HOW WAS PLANTING THE CABBAGE SEED-LINGS?
IT WAS FUN.
NINA'S SUPER EXCITED TO SEE THEM GROW BIGGER AND BIGGER.

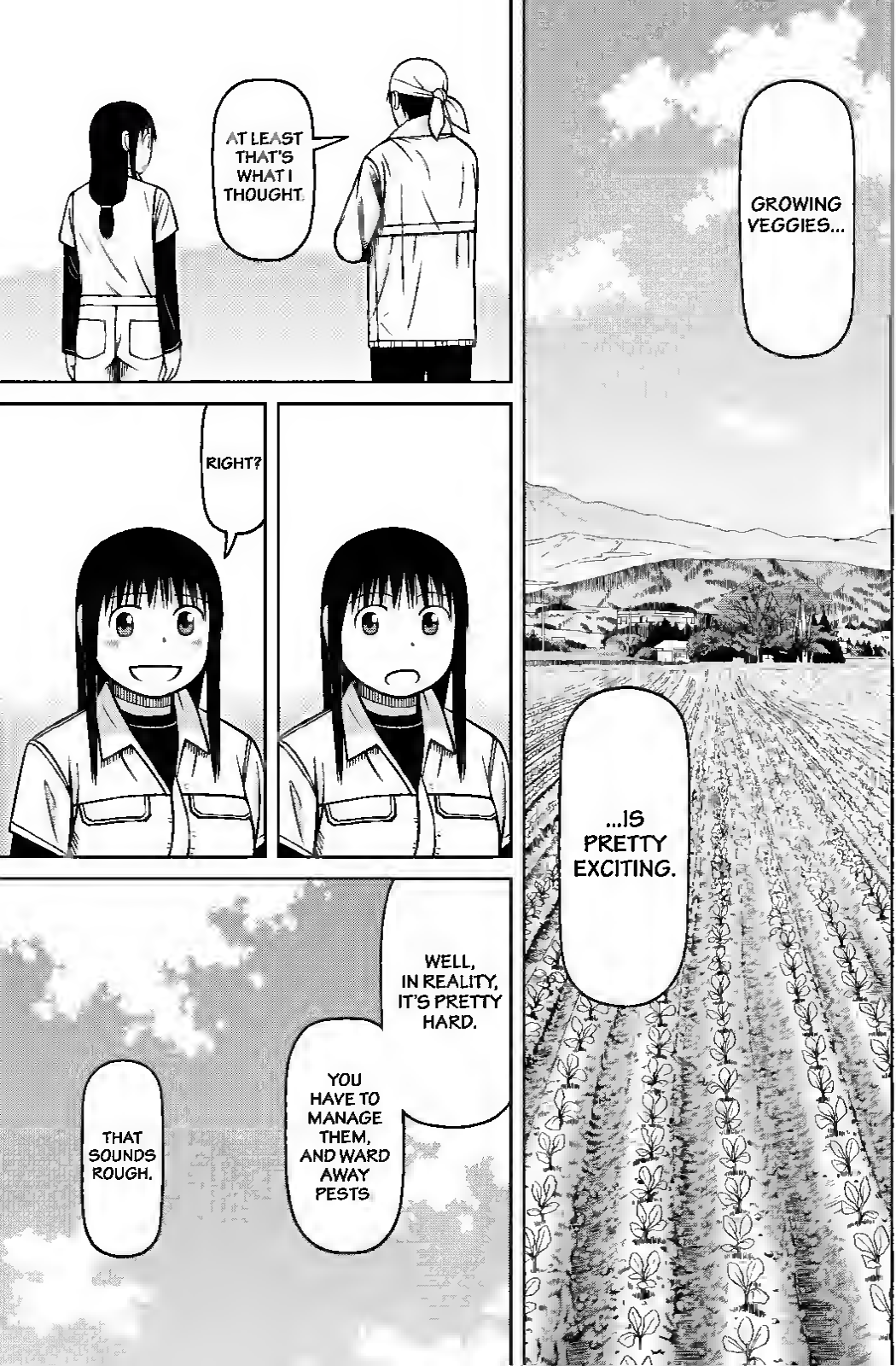

SURE.
CAN NINA COME BY TO LOOK SOME-TIME?

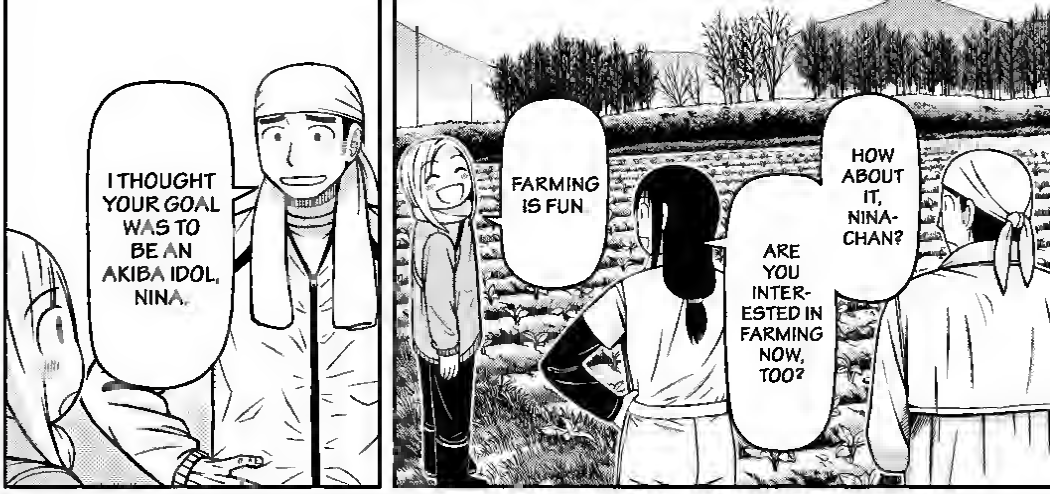

THAT'S IT?
YOU'RE SO LAME.

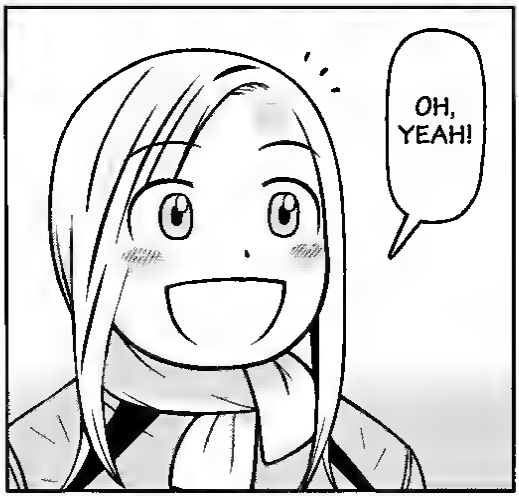


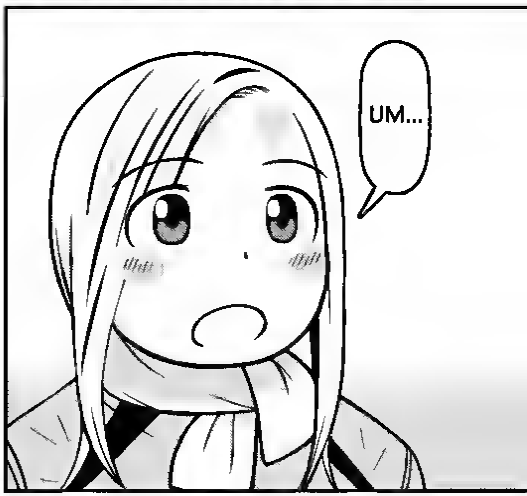

I FEEL LIKE...
AFTER WATCHING NINA TODAY..

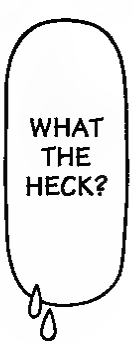

MY BACK HURTS.
HOW WAS IT FOR YOU, SHU?

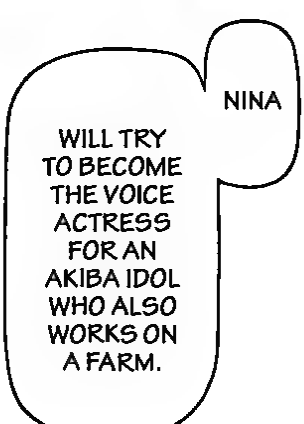

GROWING VEGGIES...
...IS PRETTY EXCITING.
AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.
RIGHT?
WELL, IN REALITY, IT'S PRETTY HARD.
YOU HAVE TO MANAGE THEM, AND WARD AWAY PESTS
THAT SOUNDS ROUGH.











HER DREAMS HAVE GROWN YET AGAIN!

CHAPTER 75

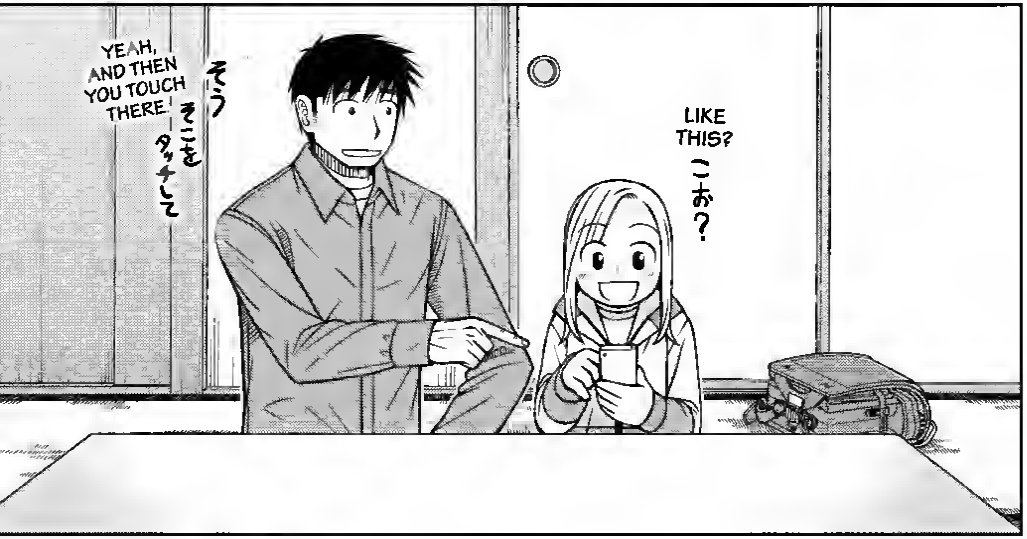
A COMPLICATED HEART AND THE SOUND OF RAIN

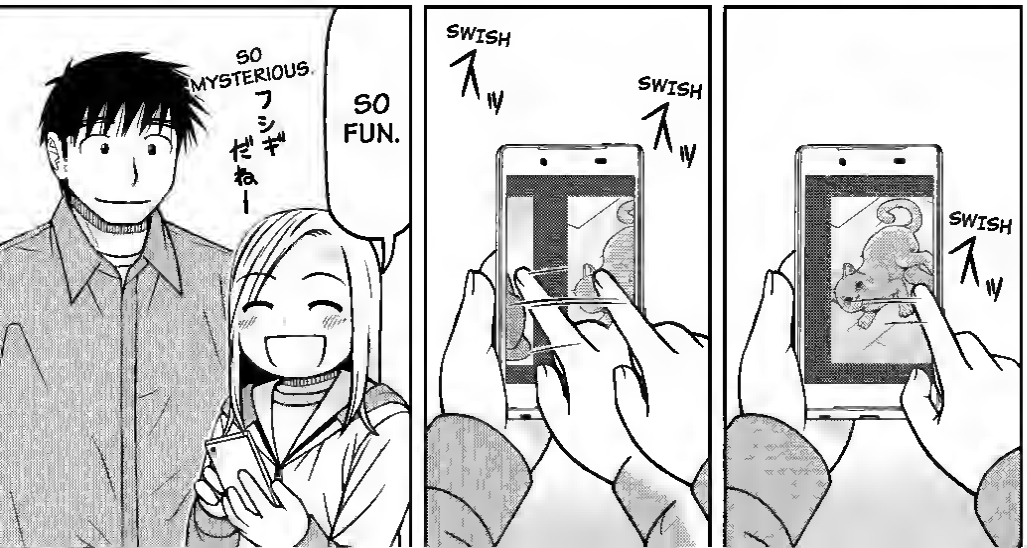
A 10-YEAR-OLD NIECE AND HER 27-YEAR-OLD UNCLE LEAD A RELAXING LIFE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE!

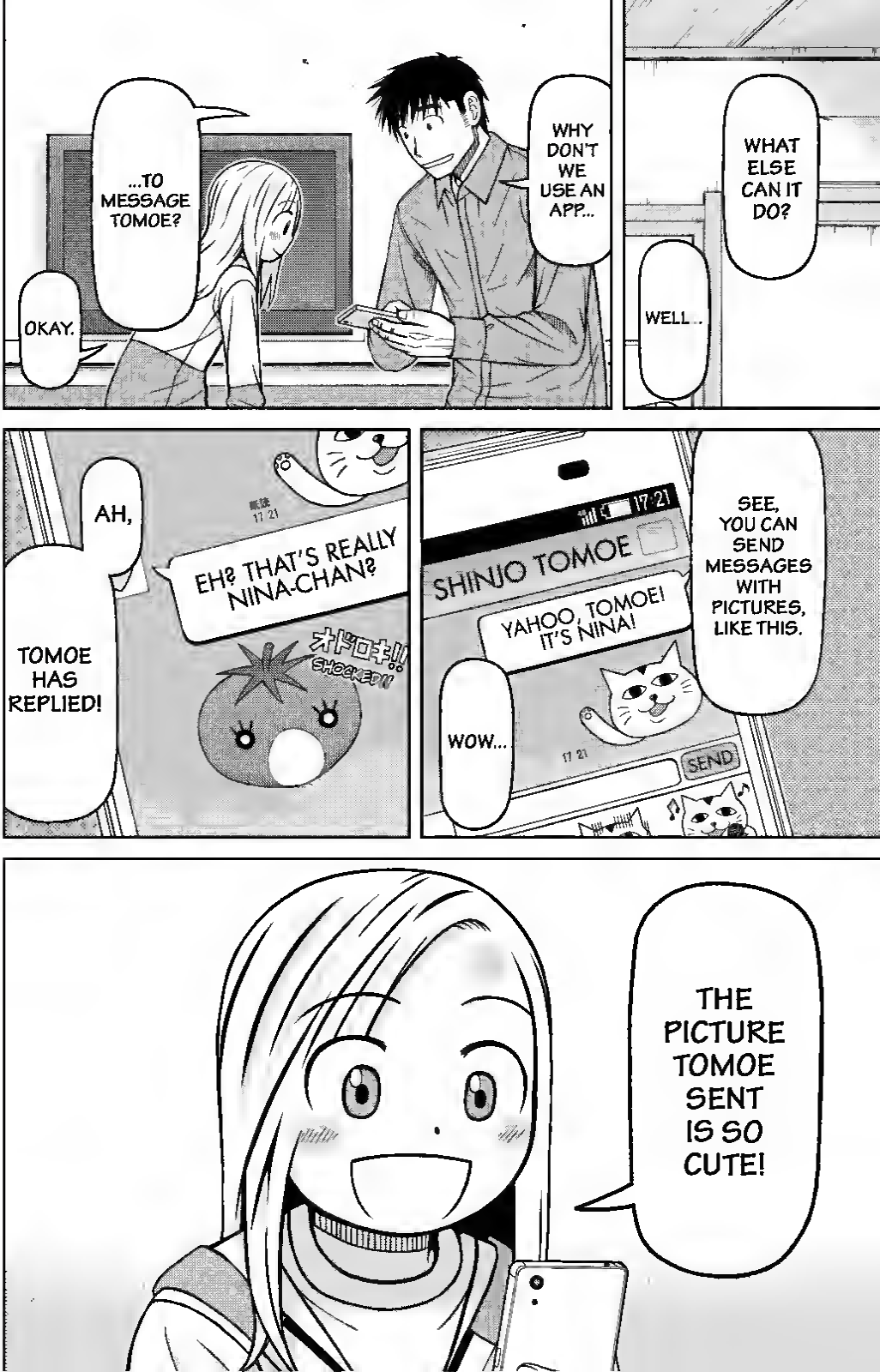
GETTING USED TO CARRYING A BACKPACK!

RETURNING FROM SCHOOL TO AN UNFAMILIAR SIGHT...
WELCOME BACK
NINA'S HOME!
IS THAT...
AH.
A SMART-PHONE?

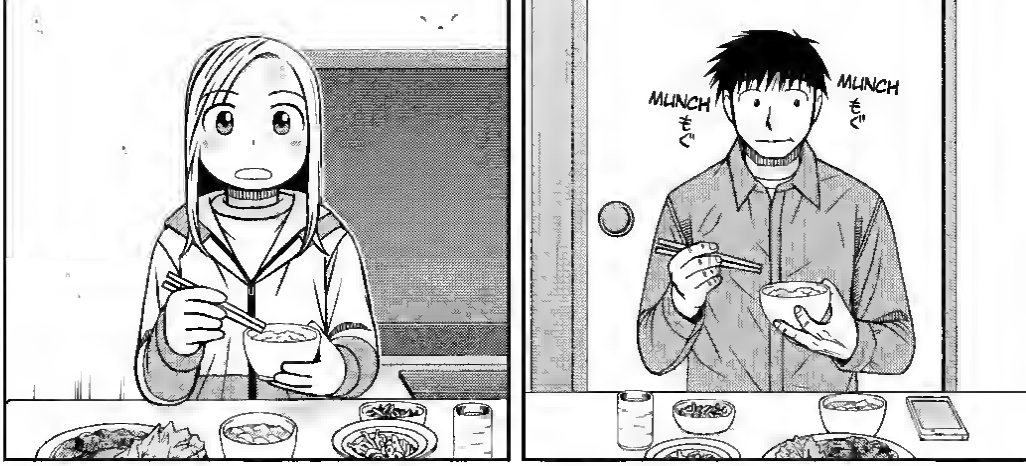
SHUTARO,
YOU BOUGHT A SMART-PHONE?
YEP.
LET NINA TOUCH IT! LET NINA TOUCH IT!
SURE, BUT DON'T DROP IT.


LIKE THIS?
こお？
YEAH, AND THEN YOU TOUCH THERE!
そう
そこをタッチして

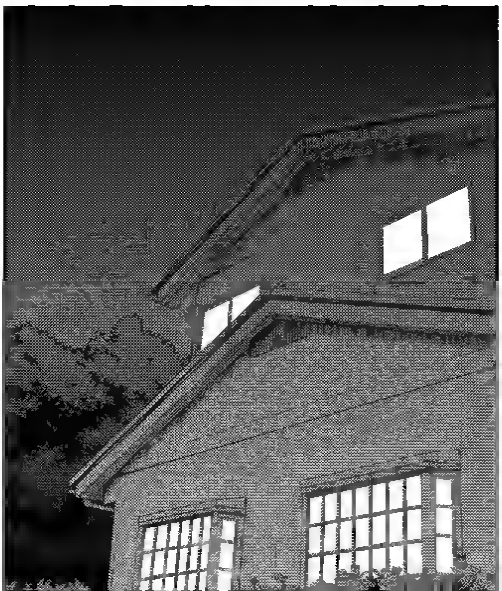

SO FUN.
SO MYSTERIOUS.
フシギだねー
SWISH
SWISH
SWISH

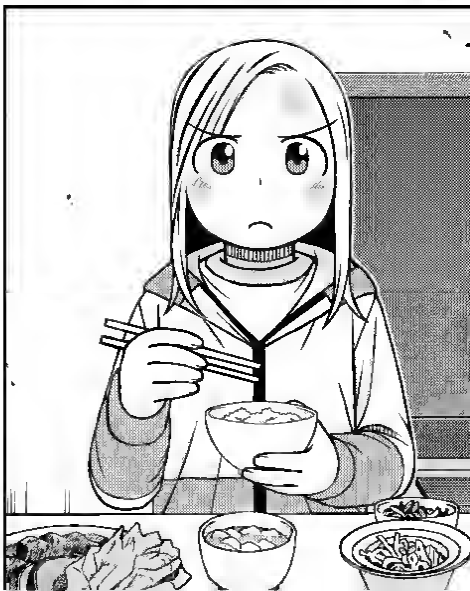

OKAY.
...TO MESSAGE TOMOE?
WHY DON'T WE USE AN APP...
WELL...
WHAT ELSE CAN IT DO?
AH,
TOMOE HAS REPLIED!
EH? THAT'S REALLY NINA-CHAN?
オドロキ!! SHOCKED!!
SHINJO TOMOE
YAHOO, TOMOE! IT'S NINA!
WOW...
SEE, YOU CAN SEND MESSAGES WITH PICTURES, LIKE THIS.
SEND
THE PICTURE TOMOE SENT IS SO CUTE!

IF I FIND ANY COOL APPS...
YOU CAN PLAY WITH IT AGAIN, NINA.
OKAY
SHIMAZAKI NINA: SHUTARO'S NIECE. A 10-YEAR-OLD, SILVER-HAIRED, BLUE-EYED GIRL BORN IN FINLAND.
SHIMAZAKI SHUTARO: NINA'S 27 YEAR-OLD UNCLE. AFTER LOSING HIS JOB IN TOKYO, HE RETURNED HOME TO THE COUNTRY.
OH, MY GOODNESS
あらやだ 大変
AND THEN SAKAMOTO-SAN'S BACK WENT OUT.
それで 坂本さんが ぎっくり腰 やっちまってな

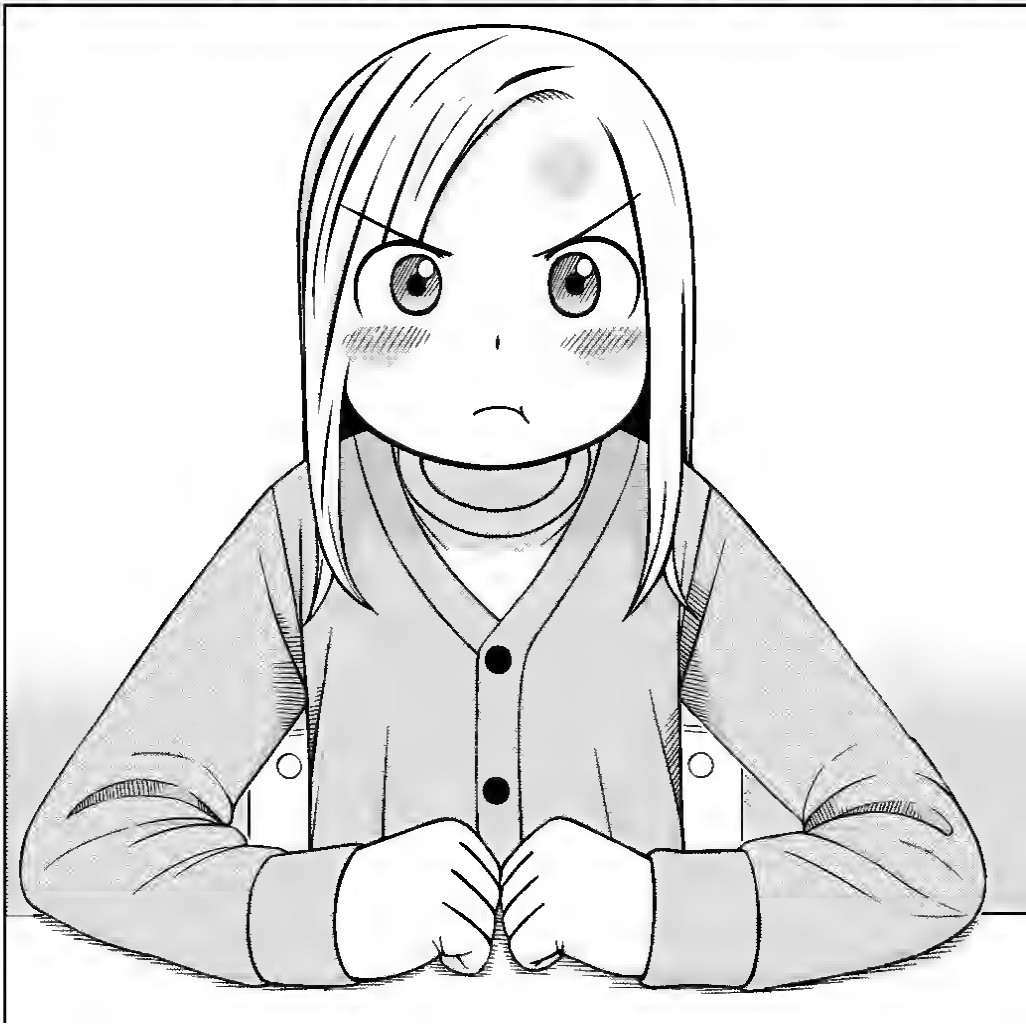

MUNCH もぐ
MUNCH もぐ

SHUTARO, WE'RE EATING
STOP BEING RUDE.
OH...
SORRY

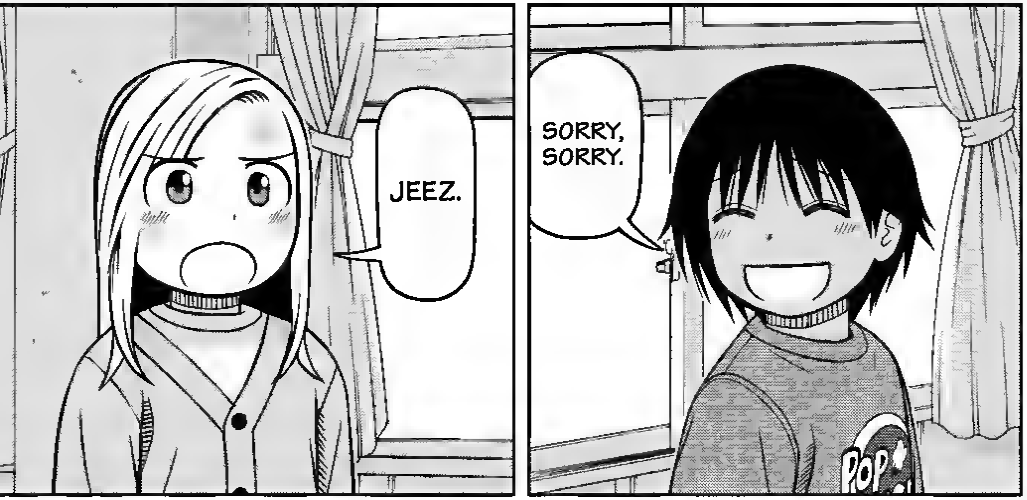


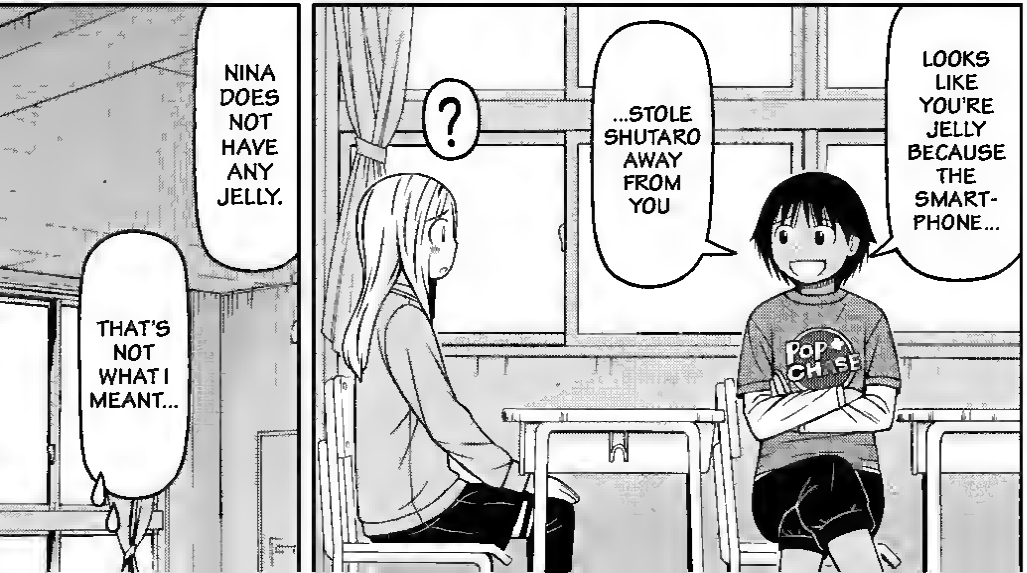


HEY, SHUTARO
CAN NINA TALK TO YOU FOR A BIT?
UH,
I'M A BIT BUSY RIGHT NOW, BUT MAYBE LATER.
...
YOU'RE JUST MESSING WITH YOUR PHONE.
WELL, UH.
I'VE GOTTA HURRY UP AND FULLY LEARN HOW TO USE IT.
TOMOR-ROW. I'LL LISTEN TO YOU TOMOR-ROW.
WHAT?

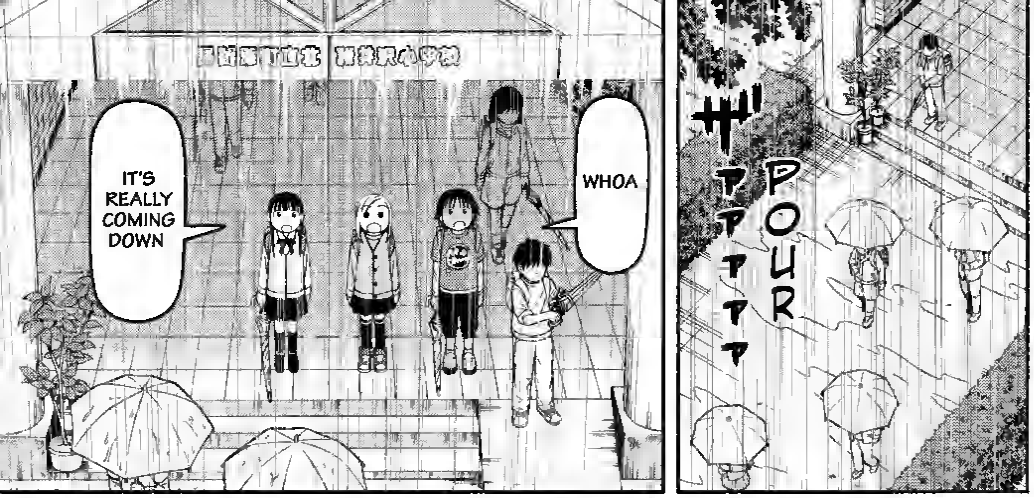


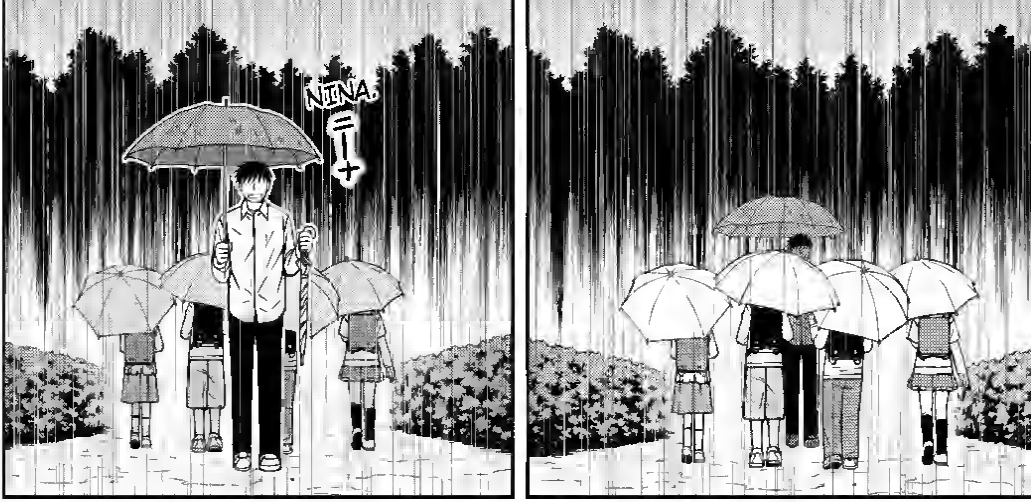
AH HA HA.
WHY ARE YOU LAUGHING, ARISA-CHAN?
HE JUST KEPT PLAYING WITH HIS SMART-PHONE.
HE DIDN'T LISTEN TO WHAT NINA HAD TO SAY AT ALL!
IT WAS AWFUL!

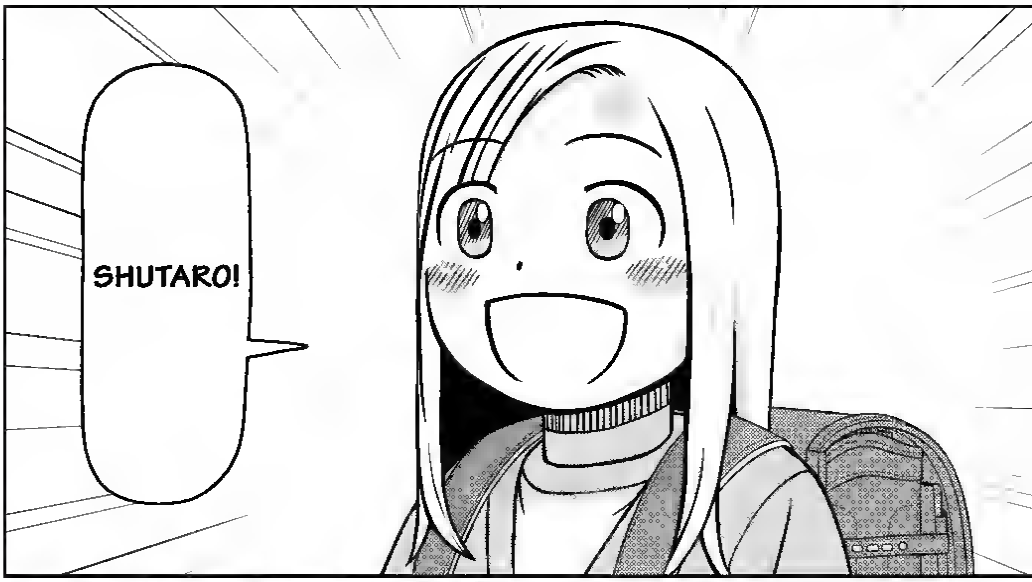

JEEZ.
SORRY, SORRY.


NINA DOES NOT HAVE ANY JELLY.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT...
?
...STOLE SHUTARO AWAY FROM YOU
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE JELLY BECAUSE THE SMART-PHONE...

WHEN MY DAD FIRST GOT A SMART-PHONE,
HE ALSO MESSED WITH IT A LOT, BUT NOT ANYMORE.
IT'S OKAY.
YOU THINK SO?
I'M SURE SHUTARO-SAN WILL BE BACK TO NORMAL SOON.
POUR
PPPPP


IT'S REALLY COMING DOWN
WHOA
POUR
ザアアア


NINA.
=_+


SHUTARO!

YEAH.
I BROUGHT YOU YOUR UMBRELLA.

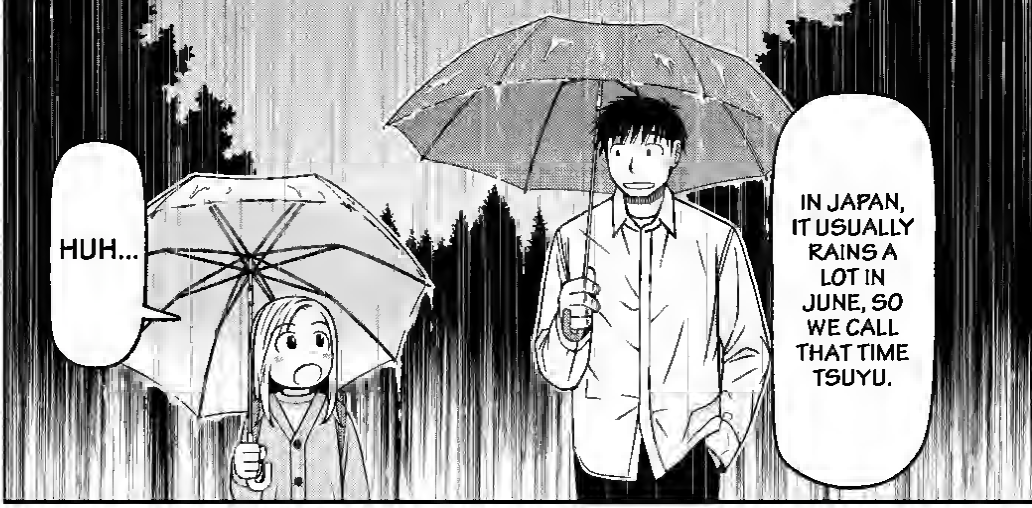
HERE.
HUH?
WHAT'S GOT YOU SO MAD?
POUR
NINA'S NOT GOING TO USE THE UMBRELLA THAT SHUTARO BROUGHT.
ARISA-CHAN, DON'T SAY IT!
SHE'S ALL PISSY BECAUSE YOU KEEP MESSING WITH YOUR SMART-PHONE AND WON'T GIVE HER ANY ATTEN-TION
DID I DO SOME-THING?
POP CHASE

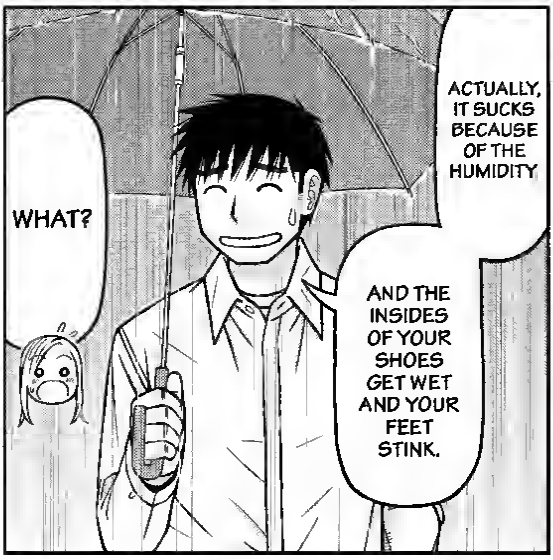
YESTERDAY, AT DINNER, YOU KEPT MESSING WITH YOUR SMART-PHONE.
IT WAS RUDE.
THAT IS NOT ALL!
OH, IS THAT ALL?
POP
YOU SHOULDN'T DO THAT, SHUTARO-SAN.
YEAH, YOU MESSED UP THERE, SHUTARO-SAN.
THAT'S LIKE READING THE NEWS-PAPER AT THE TABLE.
POP CHASE
SORRY.
Y-
YOU'RE RIGHT.

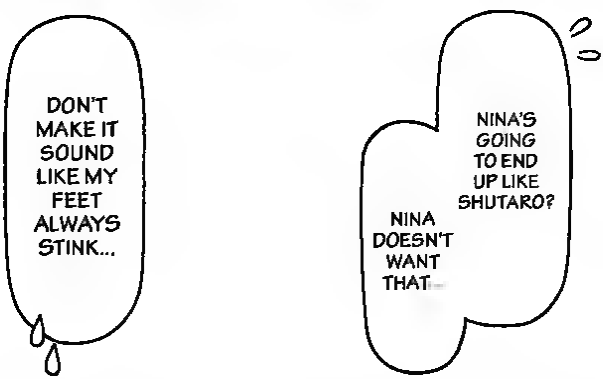
YEAH.
I GET WHAT YOU'RE SAYING.
SO LET'S GO HOME.
POUR

NINA,
YOUR SHOES ARE COVERED IN MUD
YOURS TOO, SHUTARO
HEH.
パチャ
OH.
IT'S FROM TOMOE
ピロン♪
NEED SFX
SHUTARO

POUR
ATTTTTT
OKAY
RIGHT. LET'S GO
BUT, MAN IT'S REALLY COMING DOWN.
I WONDER IF TSUYU HAS BEGUN.
TSUYU?







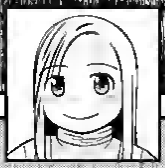
WHAT KIND OF FUN THINGS AWAIT THEM?

CHAPTER 76

A DAY TO DO NOTHING

A 10-YEAR-OLD NIECE AND HER 27-YEAR-OLD UNCLE LEAD A RELAXING LIFE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE!

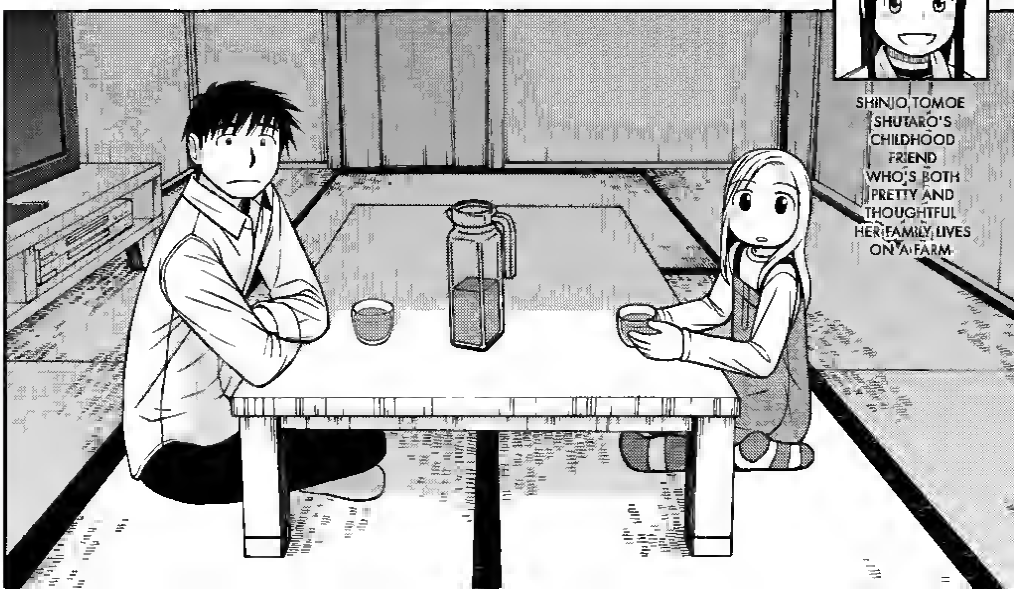
HER BLUE EYES LOOK UP TOWARDS THE SKY DURING JAPAN'S RAINY SEASON.

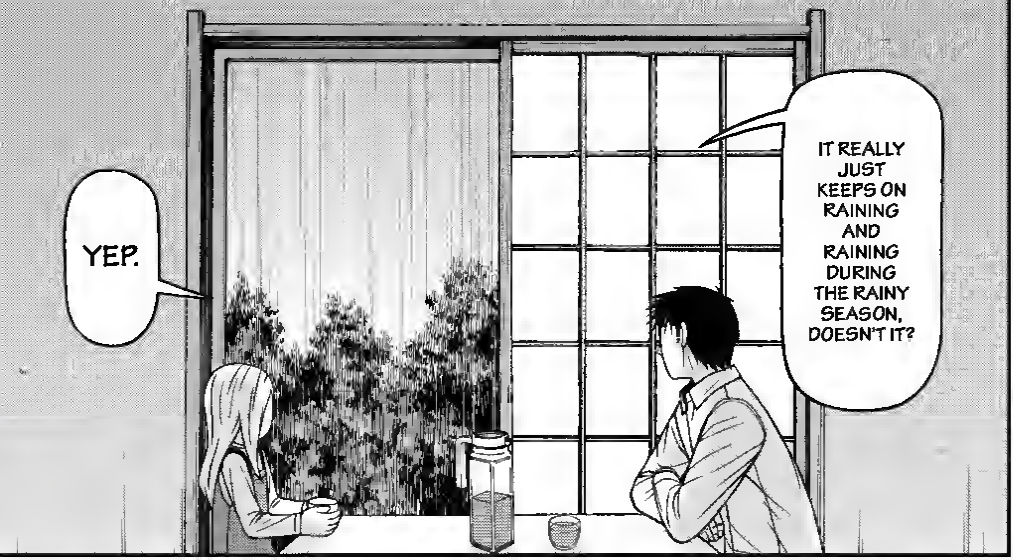


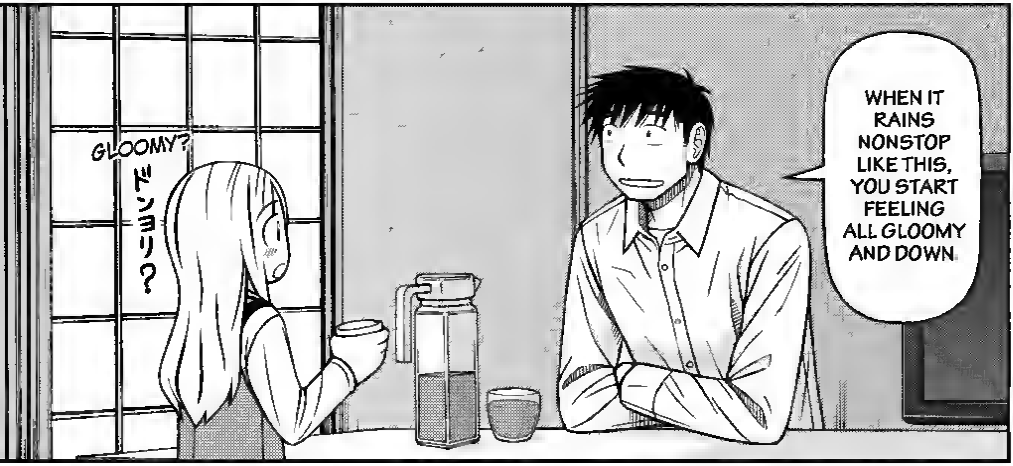
SHIMAZAKI NINA:
A 10-YEAR-OLD, SILVER-HAIRED, BLUE-EYED GIRL BORN IN FINLAND. SHUTARO'S NIECE

SHIMAZAKI SHUTARO.
AFTER LOSING HIS JOB IN TOKYO, HE CAME BACK HOME TO THE COUNTRY. 27 YEARS OLD.

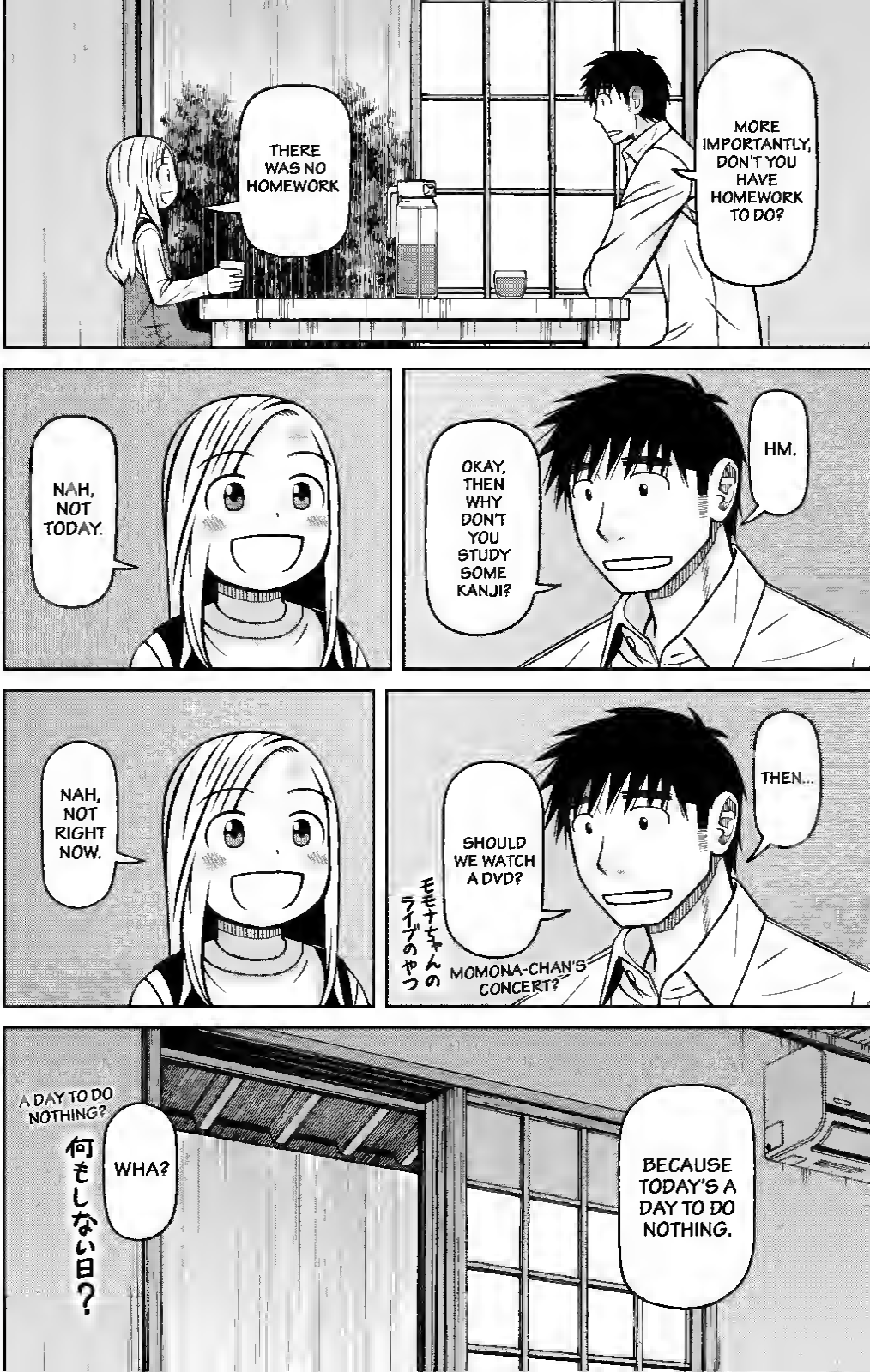
SHINJO TOMOE
SHUTARO'S CHILDHOOD FRIEND WHO'S BOTH PRETTY AND THOUGHTFUL. HER FAMILY LIVES ON A FARM.




YEP.
IT REALLY JUST KEEPS ON RAINING AND RAINING DURING THE RAINY SEASON, DOESN'T IT?

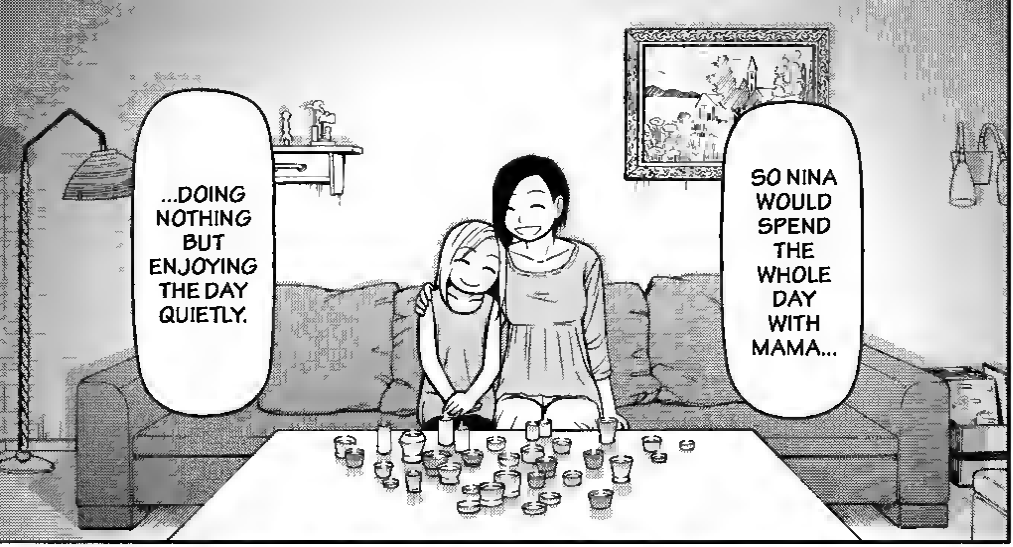

GLOOMY?
ドンヨリ?
WHEN IT RAINS NONSTOP LIKE THIS, YOU START FEELING ALL GLOOMY AND DOWN.

HUH?
NINA JUST CONSIDERS THIS ANOTHER THING ABOUT JAPAN, SO IT'S SORT OF FUN.
NO, NOT REALLY.
AREN'T YOU TIRED OF IT TOO, NINA?

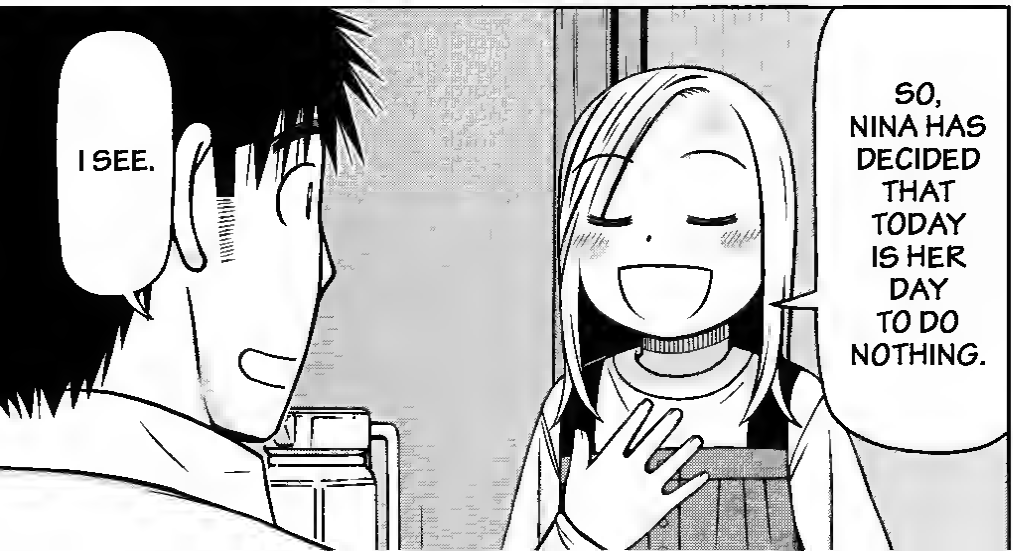

THERE WAS NO HOMEWORK
MORE IMPORTANTLY, DON'T YOU HAVE HOMEWORK TO DO?
NAH, NOT TODAY.
OKAY, THEN WHY DON'T YOU STUDY SOME KANJI?
HM.
NAH, NOT RIGHT NOW.
SHOULD WE WATCH A DVD?
モモナちゃんのライブのやつ
MOMONA-CHAN'S CONCERT?
THEN...
A DAY TO DO NOTHING?
何もしない日？
WHA?
BECAUSE TODAY'S A DAY TO DO NOTHING.

UH,
WELL, IN FINLAND, THERE'S A DAY CALLED JUHANNUS.
JUHANNUS?
NEVER HEARD OF IT.
OH, GESHI, THE SUMMER SOLSTICE
?
ゲシ？
GESHI?
YOU'D CALL IT "GESHI" IN JAPANESE.
THAT'S WHAT MAMA SAID
GESHI?
SO THE SUMMER SOLSTICE IS A HOLIDAY...
EVERYONE GETS A DAY OFF FROM WORK, TOO.
JU-HANNUS IS A HOLIDAY,
SO MOST STORES IN TOWN CLOSE.

PEOPLE GO TO LAKESIDE COTTAGES
AND RELAX IN SAUNAS, WHERE THEY CAN ENJOY SOME PEACE AND QUIET.
YEP, AND ON THAT DAY, PEOPLE GET TOGETHER AND HAVE PARTIES.
ALSO,
THEY HAVE A BIG BONFIRE AT THE PLAZA NEAR THE LAKE.
LOTS OF PEOPLE GATHER THERE.
AND PRAY, TALK, AND DANCE.
AND...
MAMA WAS OFF FROM WORK, TOO.
SO IT'S A NATIONAL HOLIDAY...
YUP.


...DOING NOTHING BUT ENJOYING THE DAY QUIETLY.
SO NINA WOULD SPEND THE WHOLE DAY WITH MAMA...

...TO HAVE DAYS LIKE THAT.
MAMA SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT...


I SEE.
SO, NINA HAS DECIDED THAT TODAY IS HER DAY TO DO NOTHING.

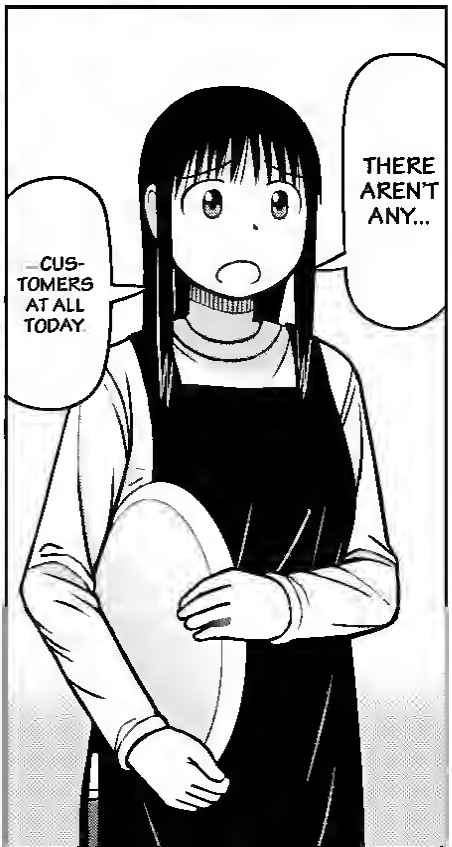
JUHANNUS DAY, HUH
WELL, MAYBE I'LL ALSO JUST DO NOTHING AND LAZE AROUND ALL DAY.
HUH?

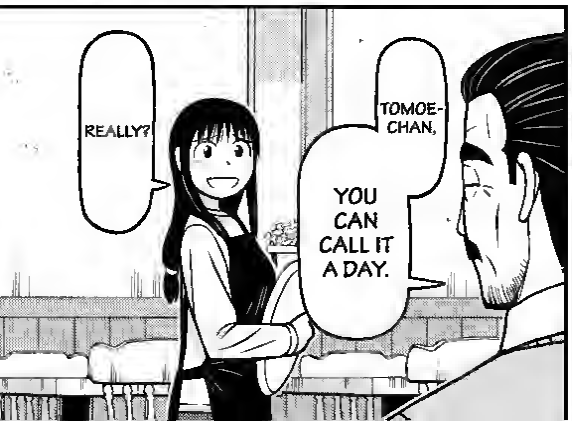
BUT YOU'VE BEEN LAZING AROUND A LOT LATELY, SHUTARO.
YOU HAVE TO FIND A NEW JOB.
RIGHT
POUR
POUR

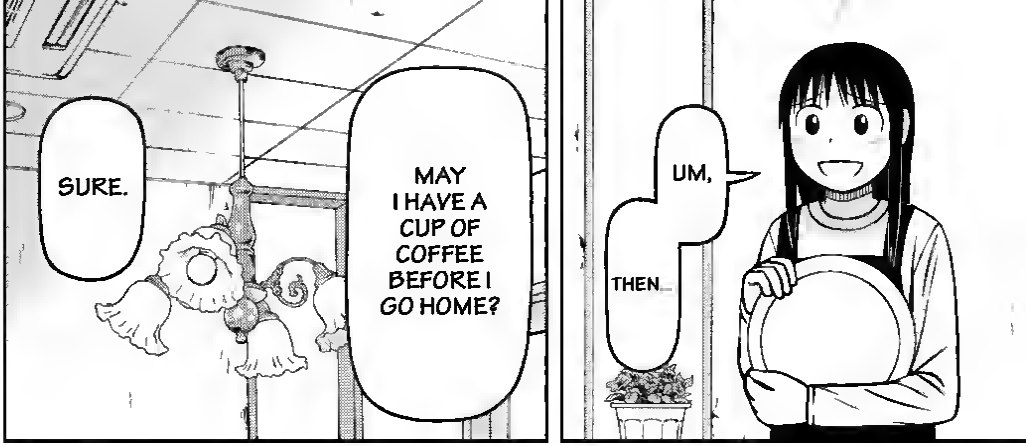
POUR
POUR

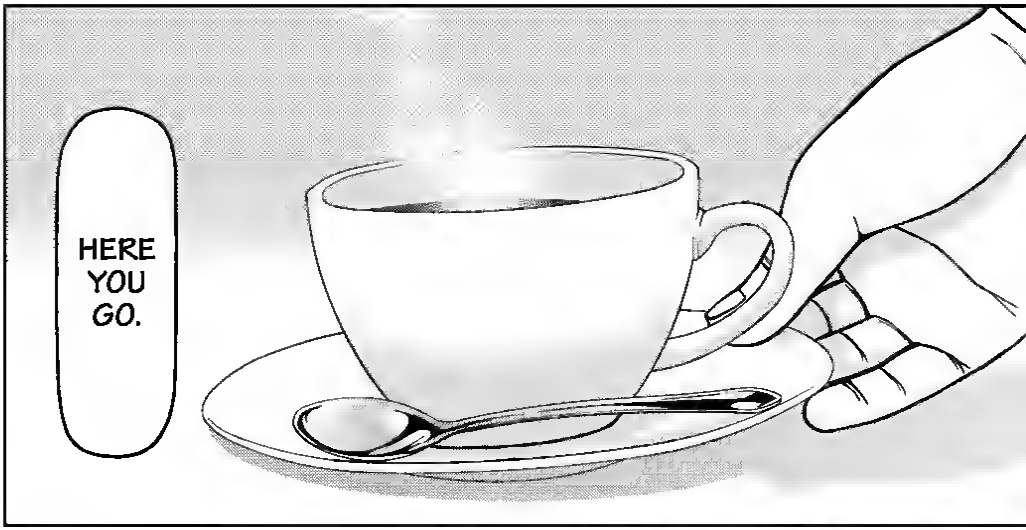
POUR
POUR

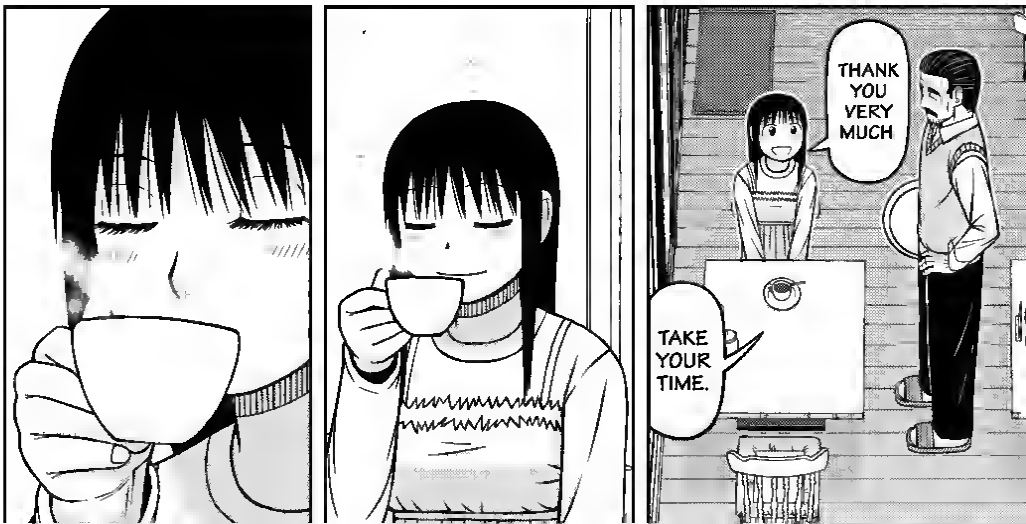
WELL...
WITH IT RAINING NONSTOP LIKE THIS...

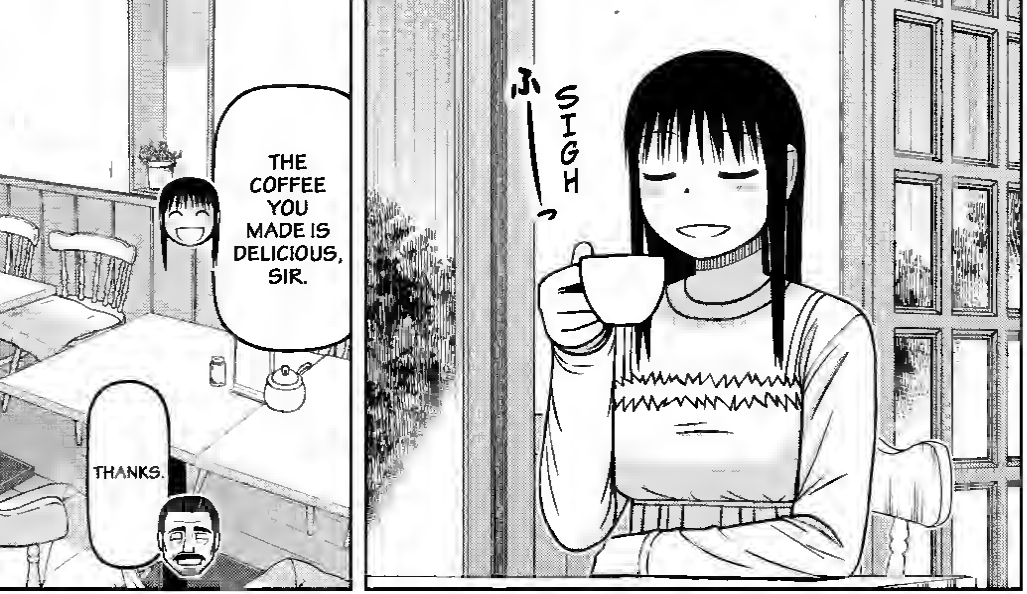

THERE AREN'T ANY...
CUS-TOMERS AT ALL TODAY.


TOMOE-CHAN,
YOU CAN CALL IT A DAY.
REALLY?


UM,
THEN...
MAY I HAVE A CUP OF COFFEE BEFORE I GO HOME?
SURE.


HERE YOU GO.


THANK YOU VERY MUCH
TAKE YOUR TIME.


THE COFFEE YOU MADE IS DELICIOUS, SIR.
THANKS.
SIGH

I
ACTUALLY QUITE LIKE THE RAINY SEASON.

AND YOUR HAIR GETS HARD TO TAME. SO MANY DOWN-SIDES...
IT GETS REALLY HUMID.
BUT YOU CAN'T DRY YOUR CLOTHES OUTSIDE.

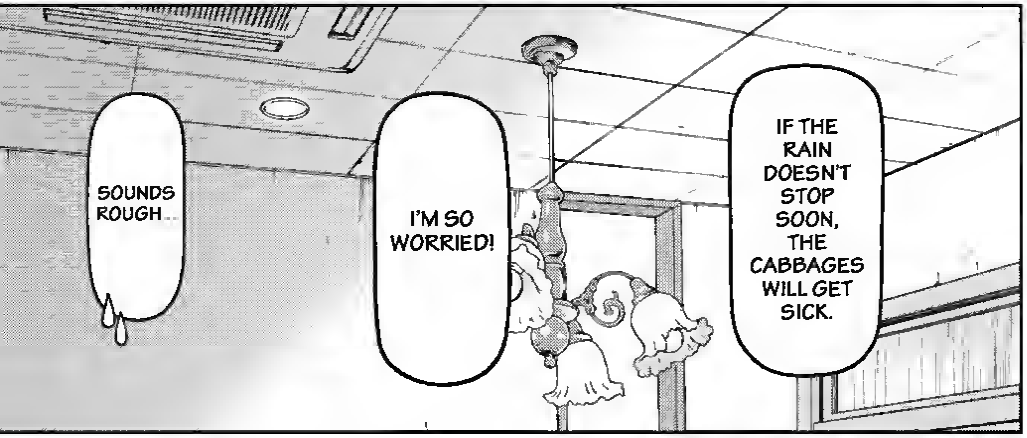
OH?

...THE SOUNDS OF THE WORLD QUIET DOWN JUST A LITTLE.
BUT WHEN IT RAINS,
IT'S LIKE .

NO, NOT AT ALL.
IS THAT WEIRD?

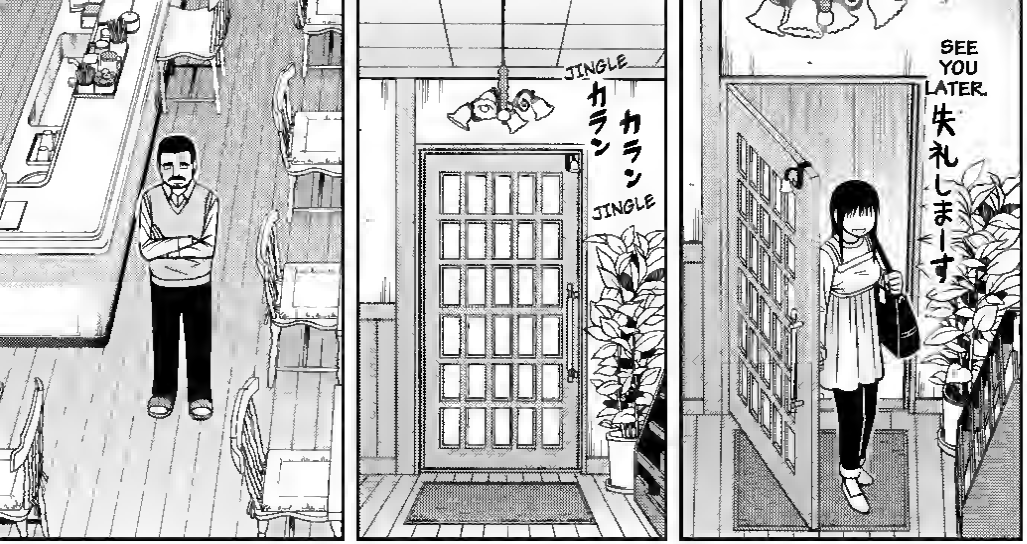
I GUESS IT JUST CALMS ME DOWN.
YOU CAN SORT OF RELAX...

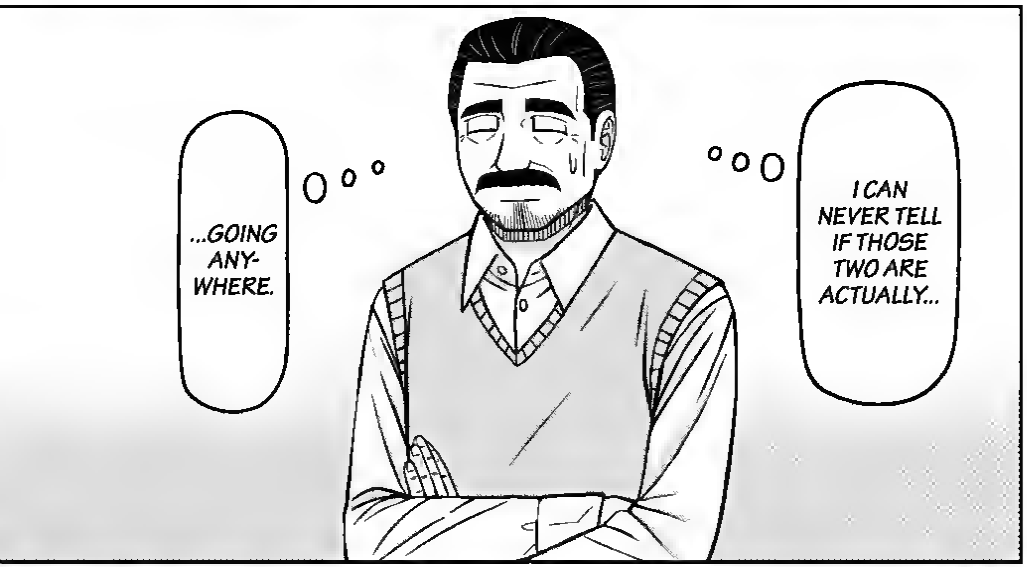
NO, IT'S NOT, YOU ARE CORRECT!
BUT IT ISN'T GOOD FOR THE CROPS IF THE RAIN DOESN'T STOP, RIGHT?


SOUNDS ROUGH...
I'M SO WORRIED!
IF THE RAIN DOESN'T STOP SOON, THE CABBAGES WILL GET SICK.

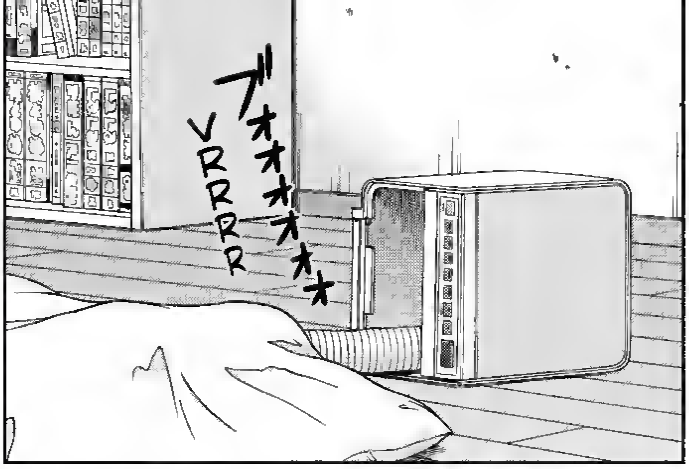
WHY DON'T YOU GO SEE SHUTARO AND NINA-CHAN BEFORE YOU LEAVE?
HUH?
I KNOW
SIGH...

WHY SO?
I THINK I'LL PASS.
...
AFTER ALL, I'LL BE TALKING TO HIM LATER...
SHUTARO AND I HAVE BEEN TALKING THROUGH AN APP ON OUR SMART-PHONES A LOT LATELY...
.SO SEEING HIM IN PERSON IS KIND OF AWKWARD
I'M GOING TO HEAD HOME NOW.
THANKS FOR YOUR HARD WORK.
I SEE
...

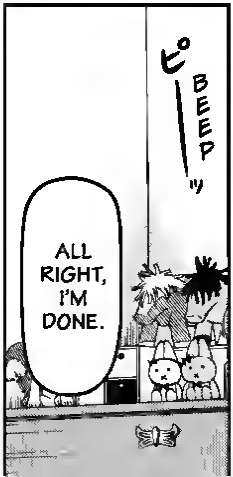

JINGLE
カラン
カラン
JINGLE
SEE YOU LATER.
失礼しまーす

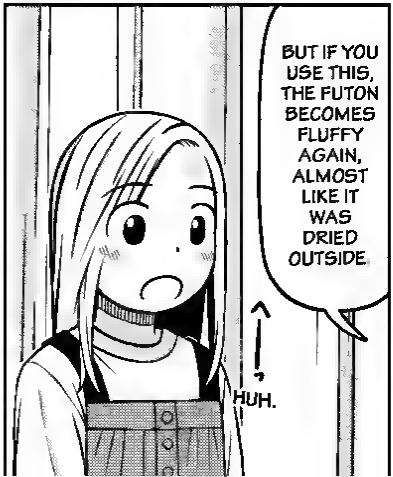

...GOING ANY-WHERE.
I CAN NEVER TELL IF THOSE TWO ARE ACTUALLY...

POUR
ザァァァァ


ブオオオオオ
VRRRR

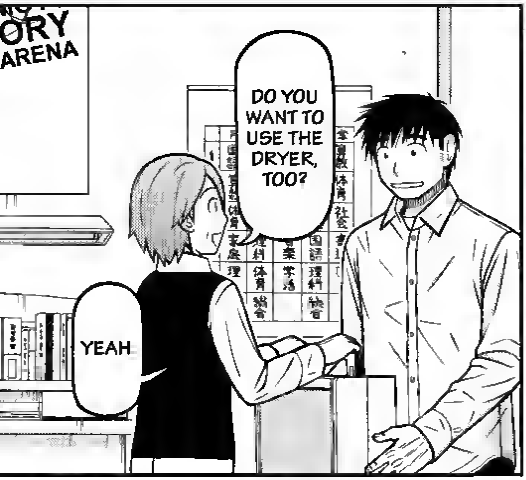
WHAT'S THAT, GRANDMA?
ブオオオオ
VRRRR
IT'S A FUTON DRYER.


ピーッ
BEEP
ALL RIGHT, I'M DONE.


BUT IF YOU USE THIS, THE FUTON BECOMES FLUFFY AGAIN, ALMOST LIKE IT WAS DRIED OUTSIDE.
HUH.

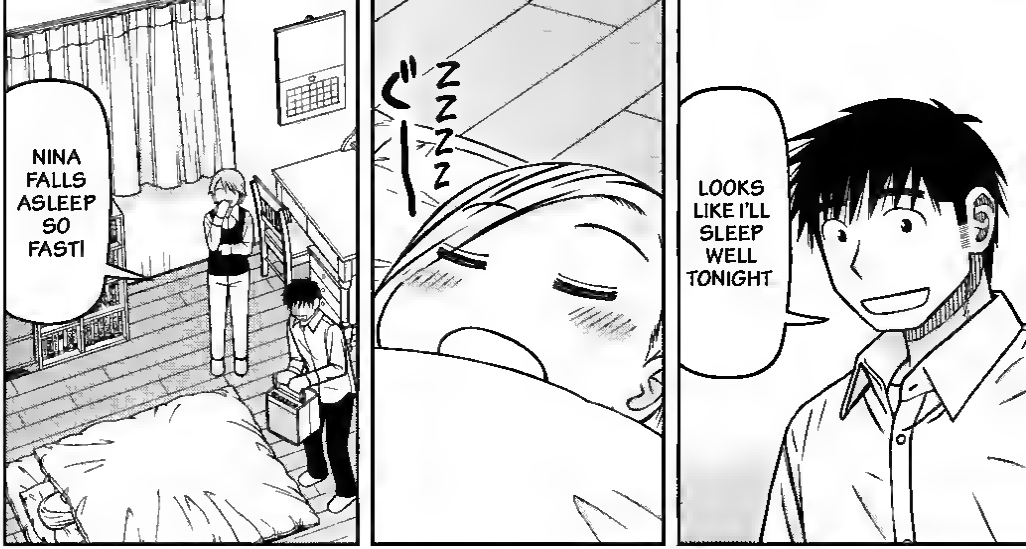
WHEN IT RAINS ALL THE TIME LIKE THIS, WE CAN'T DRY THE FUTONS OUTSIDE.
ブオオオオ
VRRRR

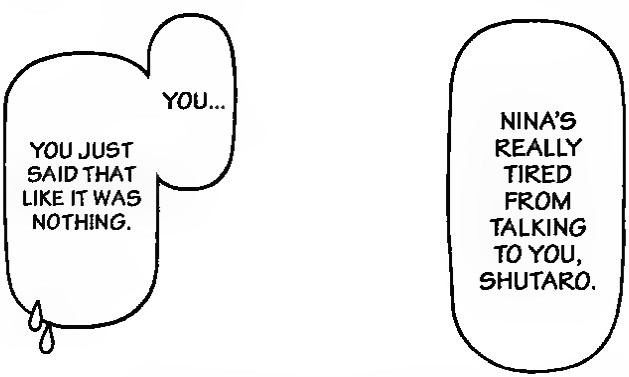
WOW, IT REALLY IS ALL FLUFFY!


DO YOU WANT TO USE THE DRYER, TOO?
YEAH

REALLY
ISN'T IT HOT? WE JUST FINISHED DRYING IT
IT'S SO NICE AND WARM.

GOT IT.
ABOUT 30 MINUTES SHOULD DO THE TRICK.





SHE THOROUGHLY ENJOYED HER DAY OF NOTHING.

CHAPTER 77

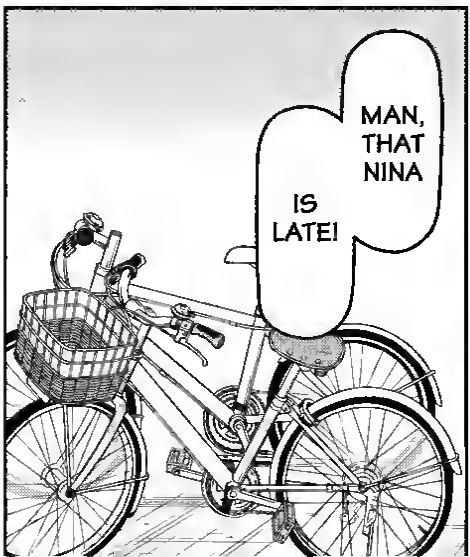
ON A SUNNY DAY DURING THE RAINY SEASON

A 10-YEAR-OLD NIECE AND HER 27-YEAR-OLD UNCLE LEAD A RELAXING LIFE ON THE PLATEAU!

EQUIPPED WITH HER HELMET AND FULLY PREPARED!

IT'S A NICE DAY.
WOW.
ALCOHOL
酒
たば
TOBACCO
ATM
CONVENIENCE
コンビニエンス
SAVE OK

BUT...

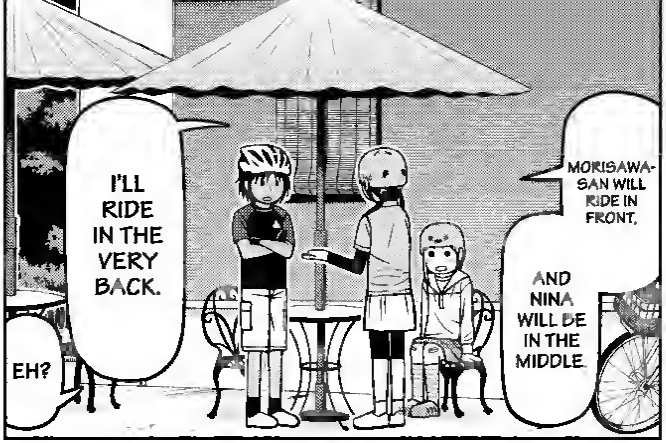

MAN, THAT NINA IS LATE!

CONVENIENCE
コンビニエン
SAVE
THANK-FULLY IT WAS SUNNY TODAY
IT'S THE PERFECT DAY FOR CYCLING
ARISA AND MAKOTO ARE AT THE MEETING SPOT, BUT...

LOOKS LIKE SHE'S HERE.
AH.
SERIOUSLY? YOU'RE REALLY LATE, YOU KNOW.
SORRY NINA'S LATE.
WHOA!
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR KNEES?
HM?

TE HE HE.
NINA FELL ON HER WAY OVER.
OH, NO, YOU'RE BLEEDING!
I'LL GO BUY SOME DISINFECTANT AND BANDAGES!
THANK YOU, MAKOTO-CHAN.
THERE WE GO.

NINA FALLS EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE...
UM...
...NOT ABLE TO RIDE A BIKE VERY WELL?
NINA, ARE YOU STILL...
?
...
NINA WANTS TO GO SOME-WHERE WITH YOU GUYS!
IT'S FINALLY SUNNY, SO...
BUT NINA WANTS TO GO!
THEN MAYBE WE SHOULDN'T GO CYCLING.
SAVE-ON


I'LL RIDE IN THE VERY BACK.
EH?
MORISAWA-SAN WILL RIDE IN FRONT.
AND NINA WILL BE IN THE MIDDLE.

OKAY, HOW ABOUT WE DO THIS?

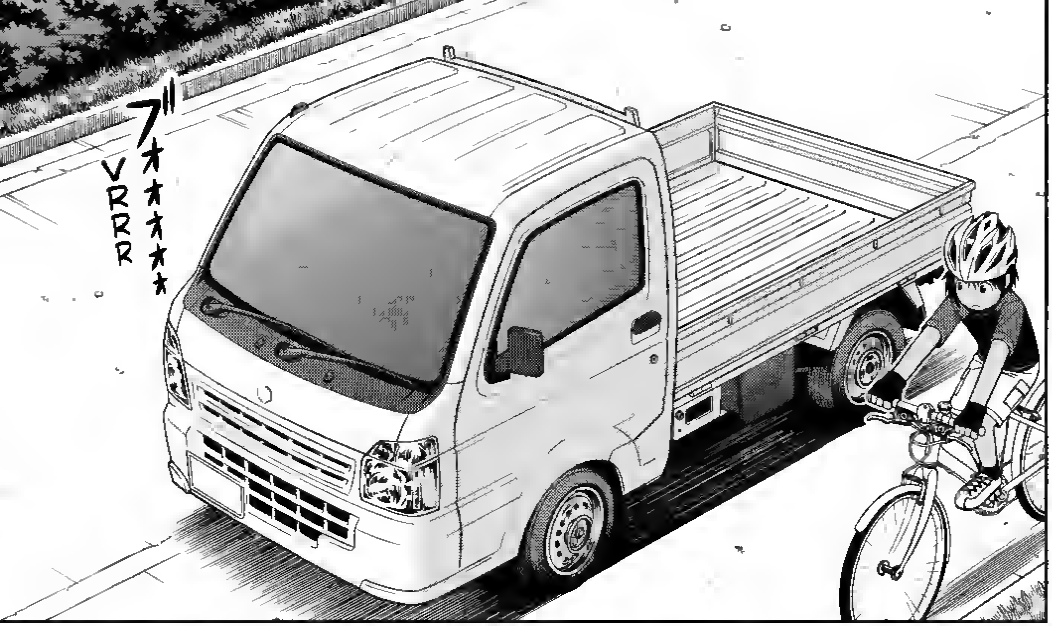
HM...
...

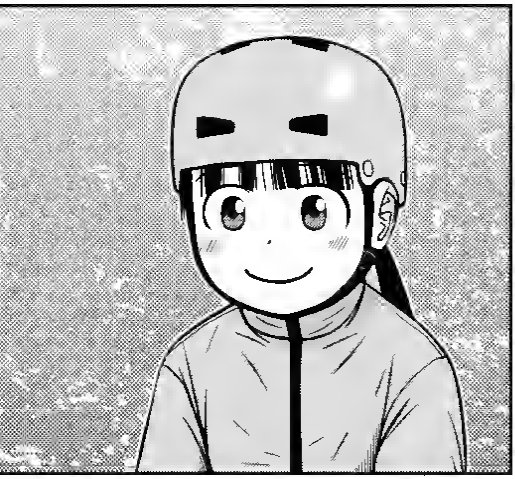
WE'RE ONLY GOING TO ASAMA WATERFALL...
浅間大滝に行くだけだし...
I THINK WE CAN MAKE THAT WORK.

YAY!
ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO.

IF NINA GETS BEHIND, OR FALLS,
I CAN LET MORISAWA-SAN KNOW.
AND IF THERE ARE AN SLIPPERY OR DANGEROUS PLACES ON THE ROAD, MORISAWA-SAN CAN LET US KNOW.

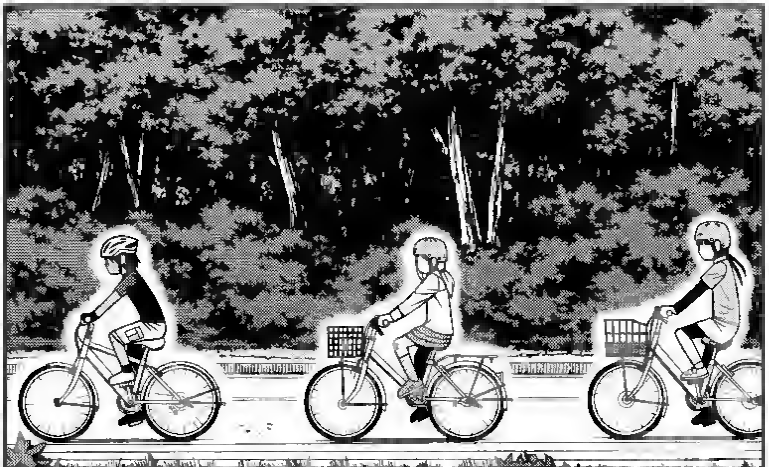
NINA,
YOU'LL BE MORE STEADY IF YOU PUSH DOWN ON THE PEDALS HARDER.
OKAY.
AH.
SHAKE フラ
AH.
SHAKE フラ
ARE YOU OKAY?
YUP.
NINA'S OKAY.
GUYS.
ブオオオオ VRRRR
THERE'S A TRUCK COMING FROM BEHIND.
GO TO THE LEFT.
AH.


ブォォォォ
VRRR



NICE,
KOHI-
NATA.

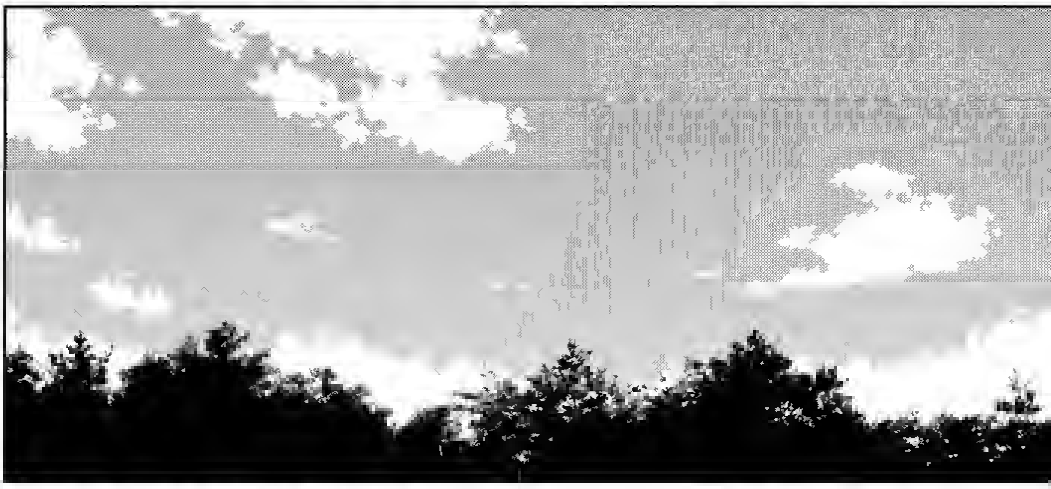
サァァァァ
RUSTLE

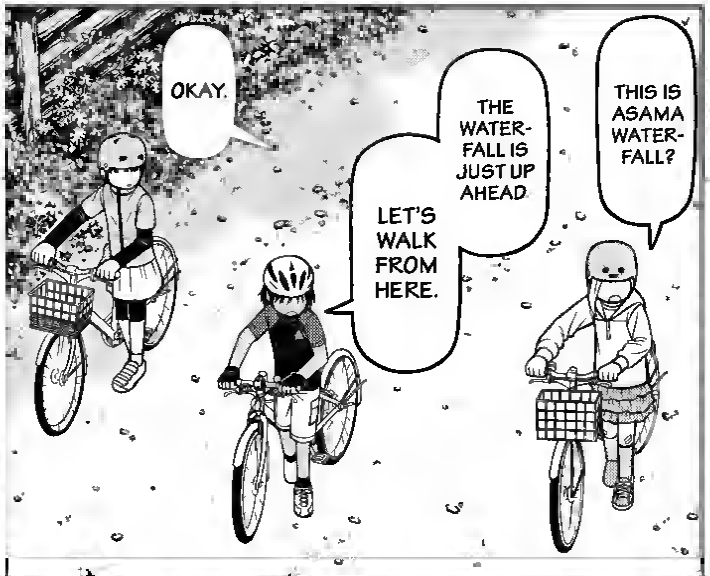


YEAH.
IT FEELS SO NICE.

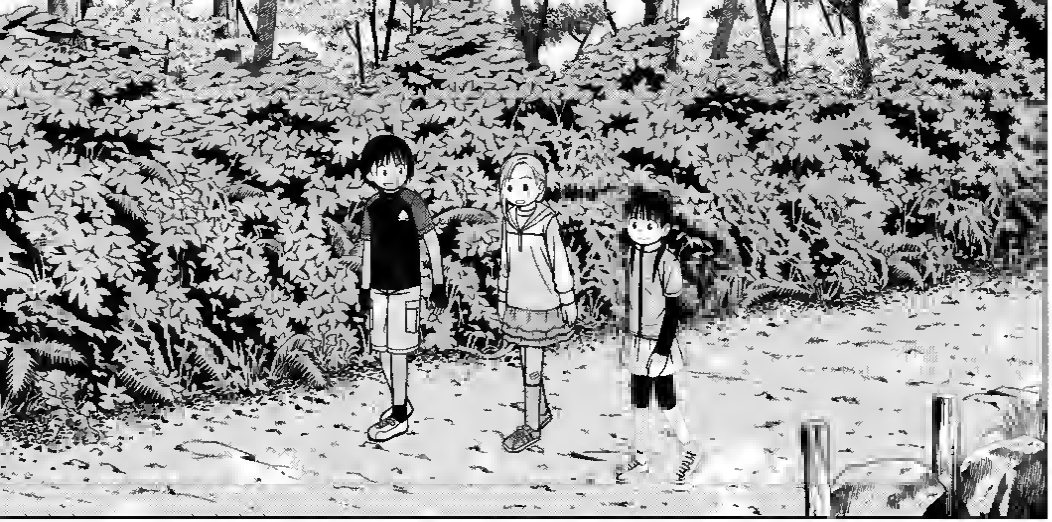
HUFF
HUFF
OKAY, GOT IT.
KEEP IT UP, NINA.
THE HILL'S GONNA GET A BIT HARD FROM HERE

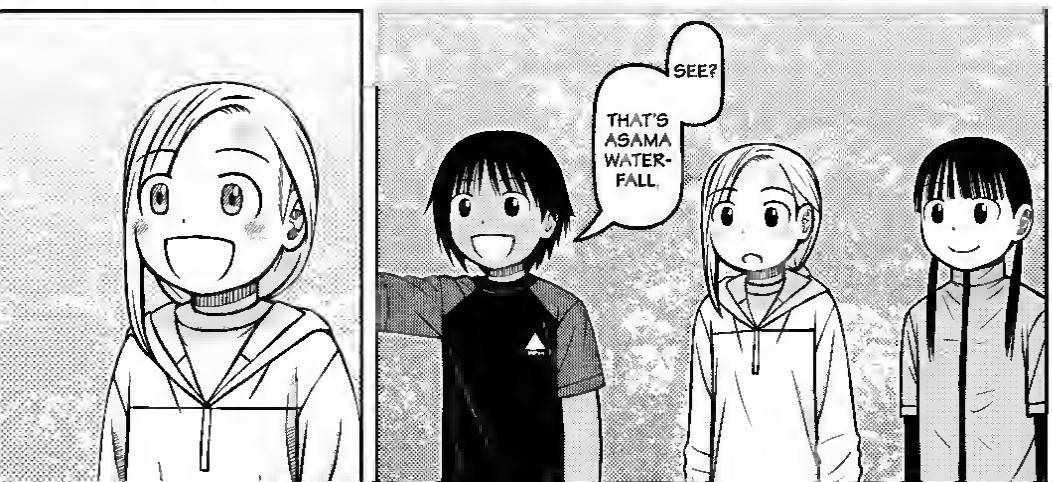
TH-
THIS HILL IS ROUGH
HUFF はあ
HUFF はあ
MAKOTO-CHAN?
HUFF はあ
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO'S SUPPOSED TO HAVE A HARD TIME HERE.



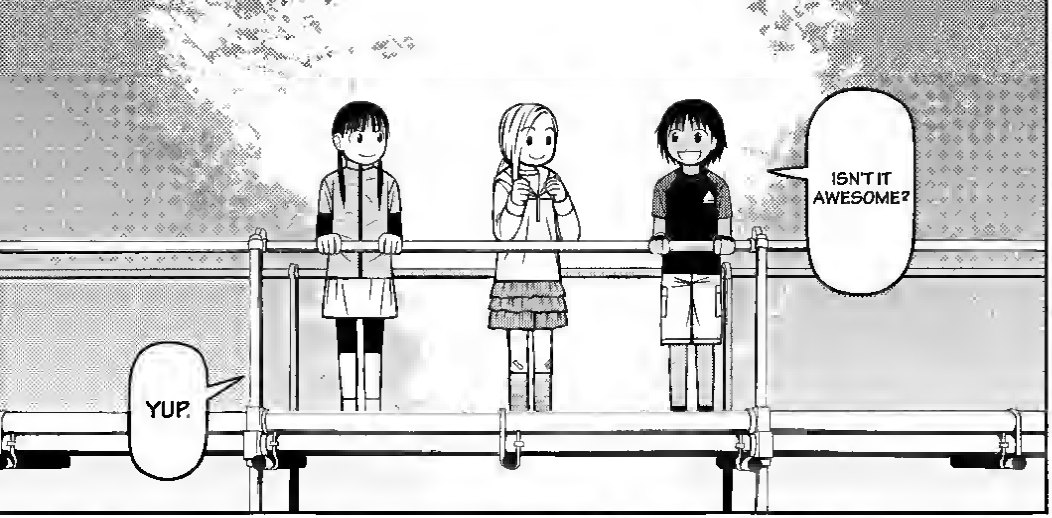

OKAY.
THE WATER-FALL IS JUST UP AHEAD.
LET'S WALK FROM HERE.
THIS IS ASAMA WATER-FALL?

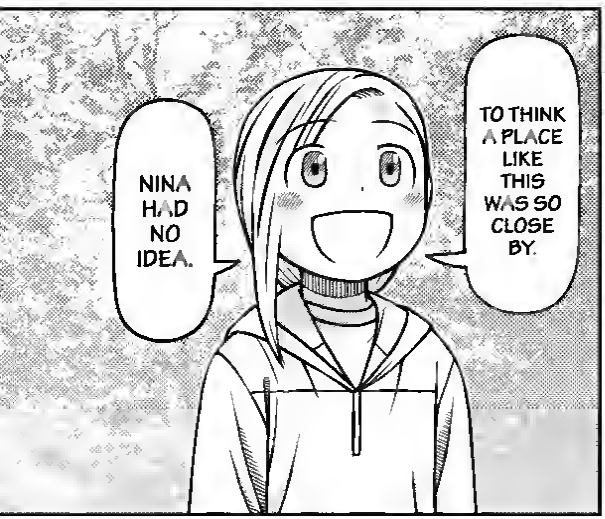
ALL RIGHT, WE'RE HERE.
浅間大滝
ASAMA WATERFALL

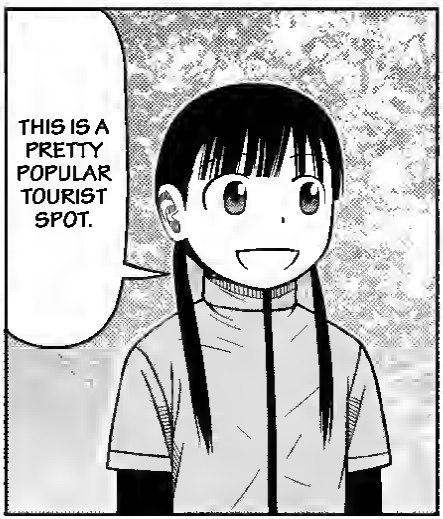



SEE?
THAT'S ASAMA WATER-FALL.

HPPPPPPP
FWOOSH
WOW!


ISN'T IT AWESOME?
YUP.


TO THINK A PLACE LIKE THIS WAS SO CLOSE BY.
NINA HAD NO IDEA.

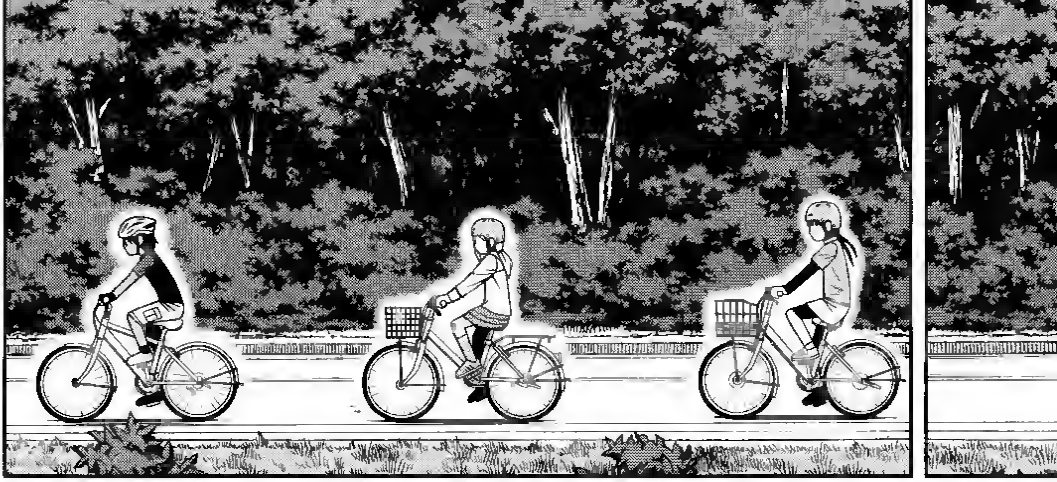

THIS IS A PRETTY POPULAR TOURIST SPOT.

UP AHEAD? ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT HIKING UP THE MOUNTAIN TRAILS?
IF THERE ARE ANY BUGS, I'M NOT GOING.
WHAT?
YOU SHOULD COME WITH US, MAKOTO-CHAN
W-WELL,
IF YOU SAY SO, NINA

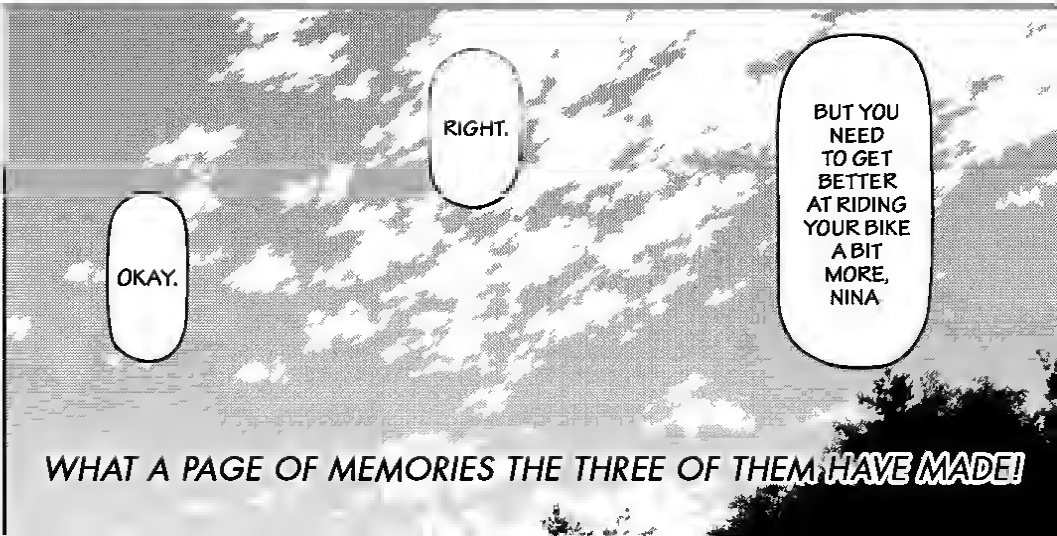
THERE'S AN EVEN COOLER SPOT UP AHEAD.
LET'S GO LOOK.
EH?

SO PRETTY!
I'M A BIT SURPRISED THAT YOU WOULD KNOW ABOUT A PLACE LIKE THIS
MY MOM LIKES PLANTS LIKE THESE
I SEE
SHE TOLD ME ABOUT THEM WHEN WE WENT HIKING AROUND THIS AREA THE OTHER DAY
THEY'RE CALLED MOUNTAIN HYDRANGEA
YOU CAN ONLY SEE THE BLOSSOMS AROUND THIS TIME OF YEAR

EH?
ARISA-CHAN, MAKOTO-CHAN,
THANK YOU.
HA HA!
NINA WAS ABLE TO SEE A LOT OF WONDERFUL THINGS TODAY BECAUSE OF YOU TWO.
EEK!
AH, THERE'S A FROG
YUP.
WE CAN CALL IT YOUR REWARD FOR WORKING SO HARD.
EVEN THOUGH YOU HURT YOUR LEGS,
足が痛かったのに
WELL, YOU WORKED HARD TODAY, NINA.

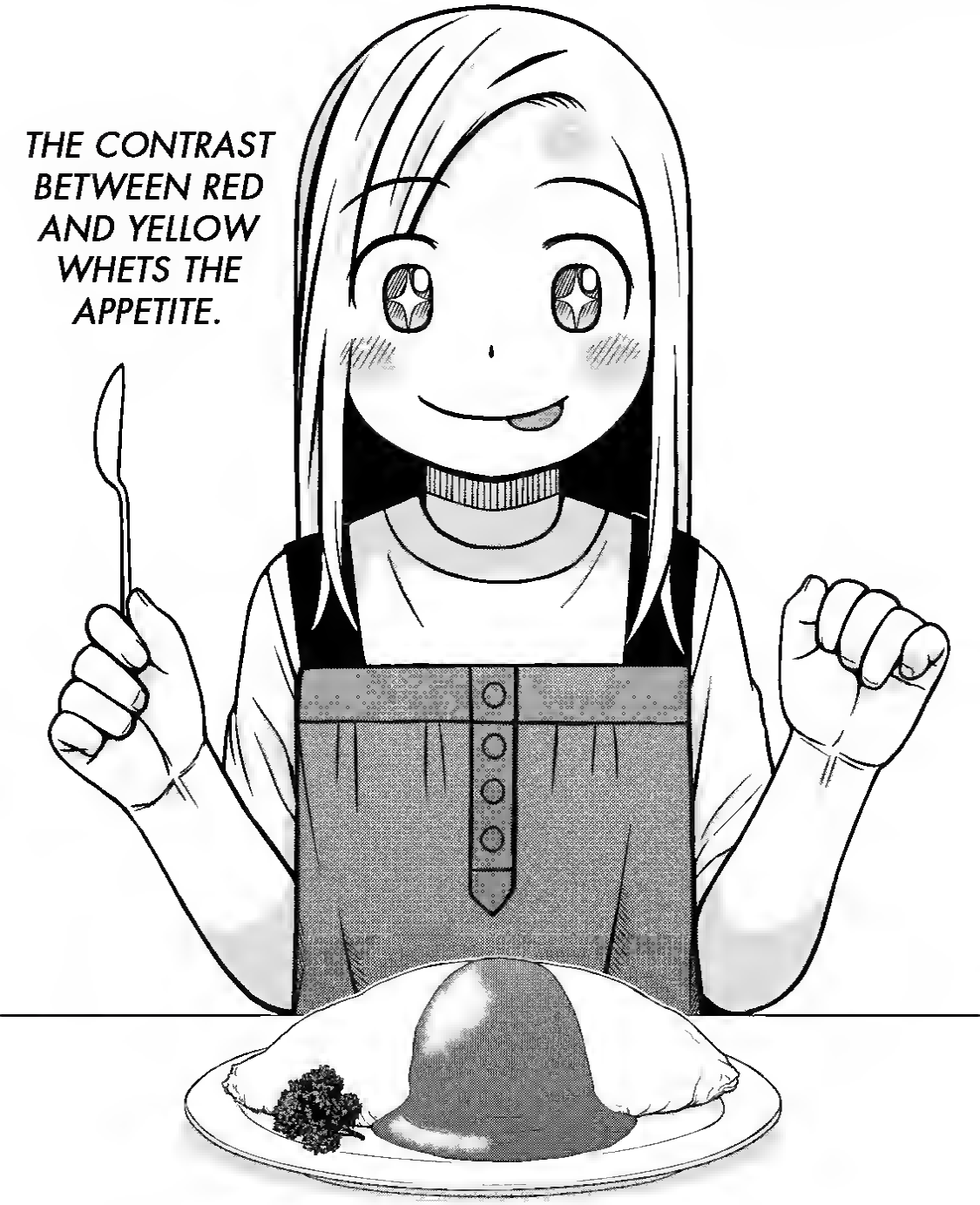


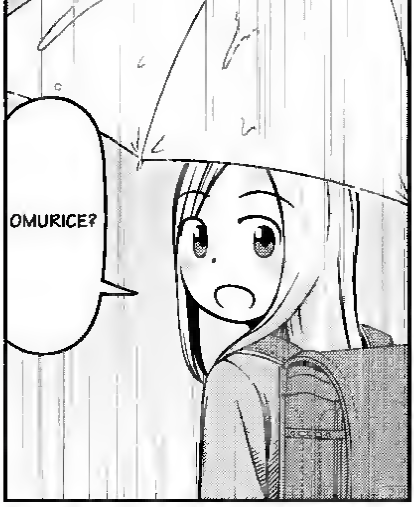
NINA SURE LOVES HER FOOD.
HEY, THAT'S NOT TRUE.
LUNCH IS A GREAT IDEA.
NEXT TIME, LET'S BRING LUNCH, AND GO A LITTLE FURTHER.


OKAY.
RIGHT.
BUT YOU NEED TO GET BETTER AT RIDING YOUR BIKE A BIT MORE, NINA
WHAT A PAGE OF MEMORIES THE THREE OF THEM HAVE MADE!

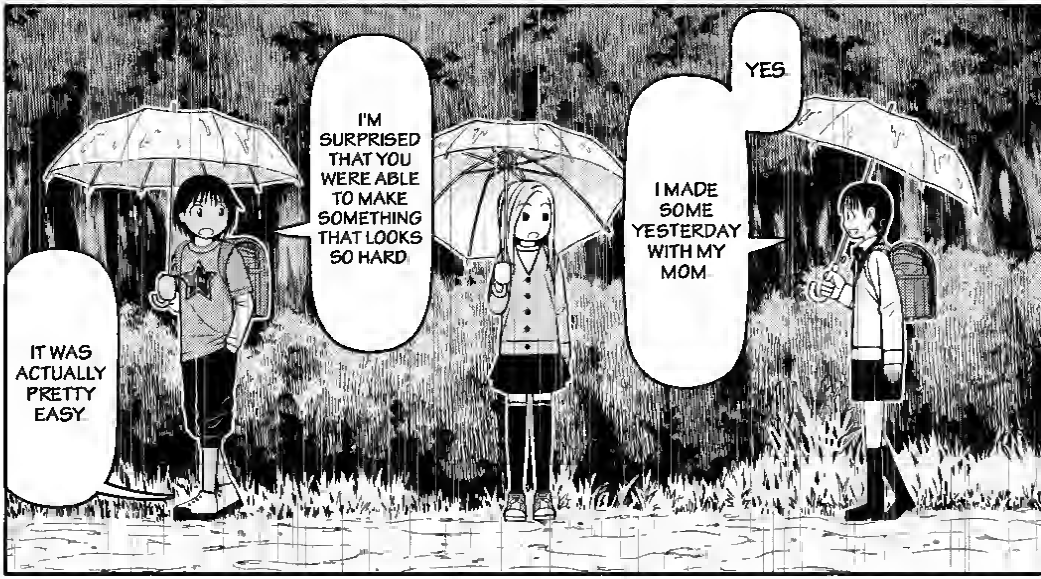
CHAPTER 78
I WANT TO MAKE IT MYSELF

A 10-YEAR-OLD NIECE AND HER 27-YEAR-OLD UNCLE LEAD A RELAXING LIFE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE.




OMURICE?

THE TOPIC ON THE WAY HOME FROM SCHOOL TODAY IS...
#1 POUR
PPPPP


YES.
I MADE SOME YESTERDAY WITH MY MOM.
I'M SURPRISED THAT YOU WERE ABLE TO MAKE SOMETHING THAT LOOKS SO HARD.
IT WAS ACTUALLY PRETTY EASY.

SECRET INGREDI-ENT?
AND WE ADDED A BIT OF WORCES-TERSHIRE SAUCE AS THE SECRET INGREDI-ENT.

THE SEASONING IS BASICALLY ONLY KETCHUP, SALT, AND PEPPER.

YOU SOUND LIKE A PRO CHEF, MAKOTO-CHAN!
SO COOL!
WELL, I PUT WORCES-TERSHIRE SAUCE IN MY CURRY.
STAR

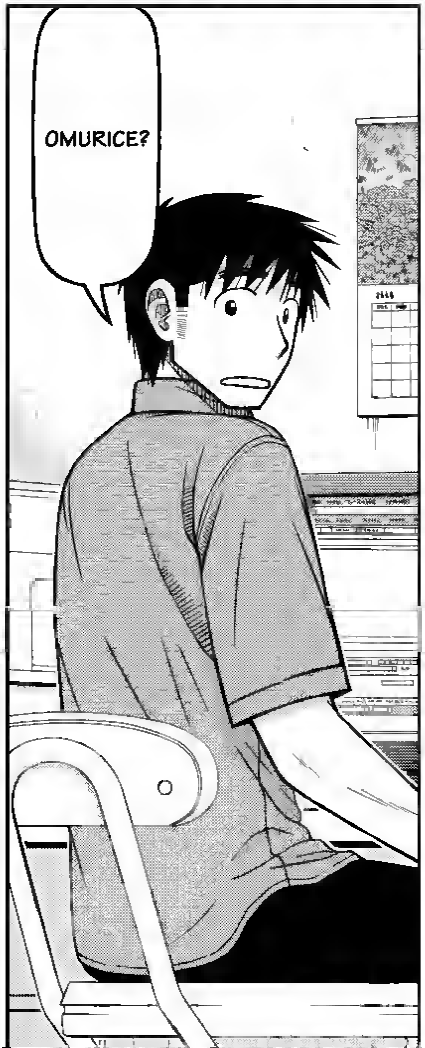
IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE LIKE THAT,
I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU TRY TO MAKE IT
I...
I PREFER TO EAT THE FOOD.
STAR

OMURICE, HUH...
CAN NINA MAKE IT, TOO?
IT REALLY ISN'T THAT HARD.
THE ONLY TOUGH PART IS TRYING TO WRAP THE CHICKEN RICE WITH THE EGG

I MESSED UP A LOT YESTER-DAY...
...BUT NOW THAT I KNOW HOW TO DO IT, I WON'T FAIL AGAIN.
WOW〜
OMURICE IS EASY FOR ME NOW.
YOU WOULD MAKE A GREAT MAID, MAKOTO-CHAN.
A MAID?
WHY?
THE MAIDS IN AKIHABARA ARE REALLY GOOD AT DRAWING PICTURES WITH KETCHUP ON OMURICE.
I...
I SEE...
NOT ALL MAIDS MAKE OMURICE, YOU KNOW.

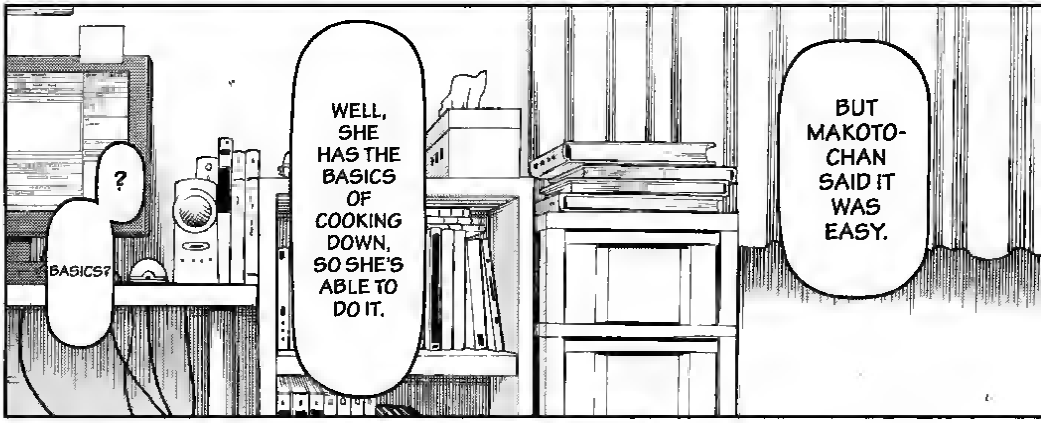
#11
POUR
PPPPPP

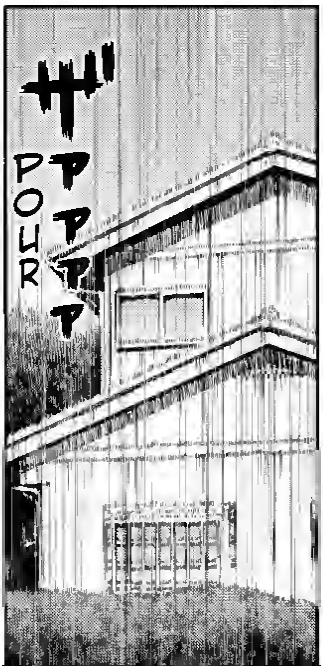
YES, BUT NINA WANTS TO MAKE IT.
YOU CAN GET OMURICE IF YOU GO TO THE CAFÉ.


OMURICE?

SHOW NINA HOW TO MAKE IT, SHUTARO.

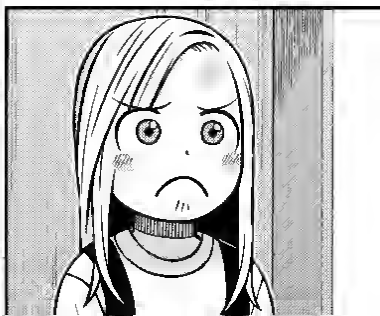
IT'S PRETTY HARD TO MAKE OMURICE, YOU KNOW.
I THINK IT MIGHT BE A BIT TOUGH FOR YOU.
HUH?
IT IS?


BUT MAKOTO-CHAN SAID IT WAS EASY.
WELL, SHE HAS THE BASICS OF COOKING DOWN, SO SHE'S ABLE TO DO IT.
?
BASICS?


POUR
PPPPP

BUT NINA WANTS TO MAKE IT NOW.
NINA SHOULD BE OKAY IF WE MAKE IT TOGETHER.
OKAY, OKAY.

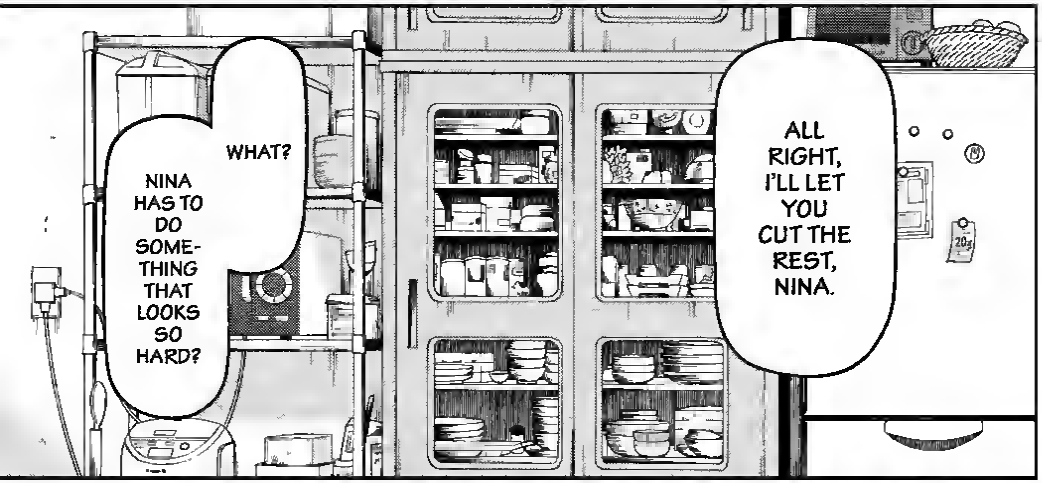
WE CAN TRY MAKING IT ANOTHER TIME.



HM?
トン
CHOP
OKAY.
OKAY, NINA, YOU CHOP THE ONIONS.
DICE?
YOU HAVE TO DICE THE ONIONS FOR OMURICE.
OKAY, WATCH.
NINA...
YOU'RE ONLY SUPPOSED TO CUT ONIONS LIKE THAT WHEN YOU MAKE CURRY.
IT'S NOT THE SAME?

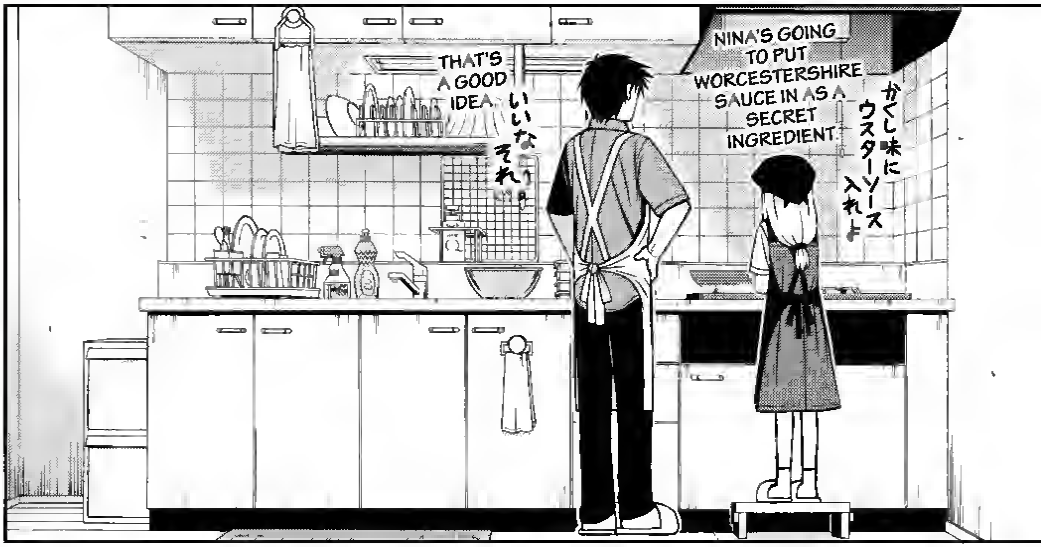
FIRST, YOU CUT THE ONION IN HALF.
CHOP
トン
NEXT, YOU CUT THE ONION INTO SLICES, MAKING SURE THE SIDE YOU CUT FACES THE CUTTING BOARD.
CHOP
トン
THEN, YOU CHANGE DIRECTIONS AND CUT HORIZONTALLY.
SLIDE
THEN YOU JUST CUT THEM INTO SMALL PIECES LIKE THIS.
CHOP
トン
CHOP
トン
CHOP
トン
AND THAT'S HOW YOU DICE ONIONS.
WHOA!
THAT'S AMAZING!
DID YOU THINK OF THIS, SHUTARO?
HEH...
こまかい!!
SO TINY!

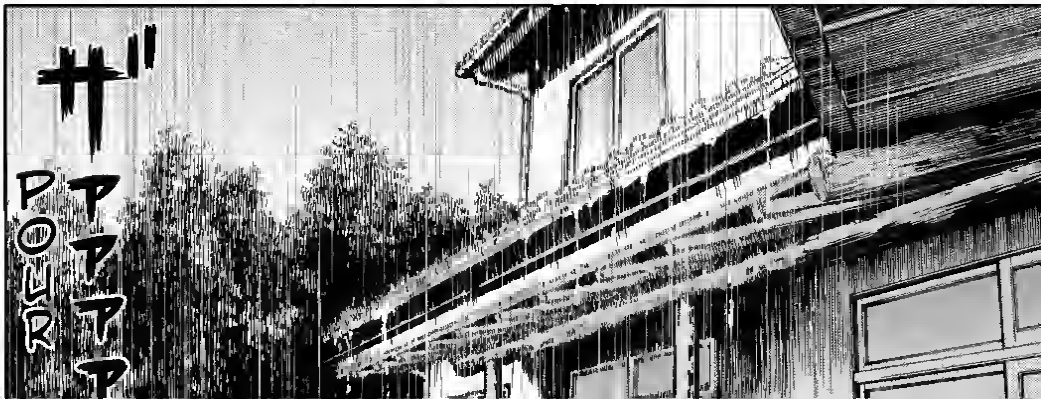
OF COURSE NOT.
BOO...
NINA WASTED ENERGY ON THE SURPRISE THEN.


ALL RIGHT, I'LL LET YOU CUT THE REST, NINA.
WHAT?
NINA HAS TO DO SOME-THING THAT LOOKS SO HARD?

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID YOU WANTED TO TRY EVEN AFTER I TOLD YOU IT WAS HARD.
OH, YEAH!
NINA WILL DO HER BEST.
GOOD.

HAHA
はは
NINA'S EYES HURT AFTER ALL
やっぱり目がしみる～


THAT'S A GOOD IDEA
いいなそれ
NINA'S GOING TO PUT WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE IN AS A SECRET INGREDIENT
かくし味にウスターソース入れよ

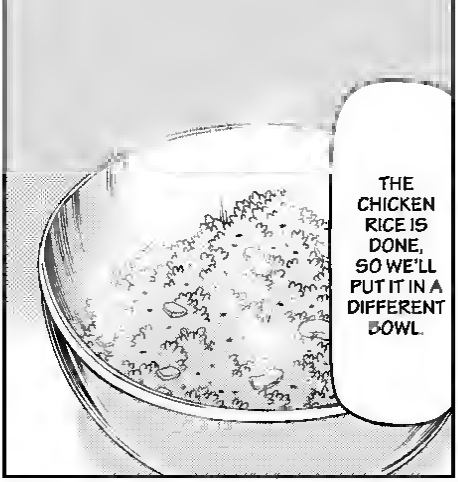

ザー
POUR

ジュ
SIZZLE

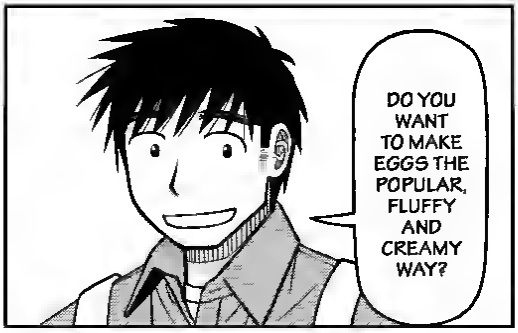
YEAH, JUST LIKE THAT.
ジュ
SIZZLE

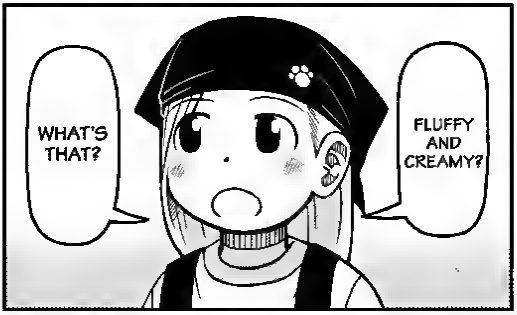
SHUTARO, TRADE WITH NINA.
OKAY
手がイタい…
NINA'S HANDS HURT...

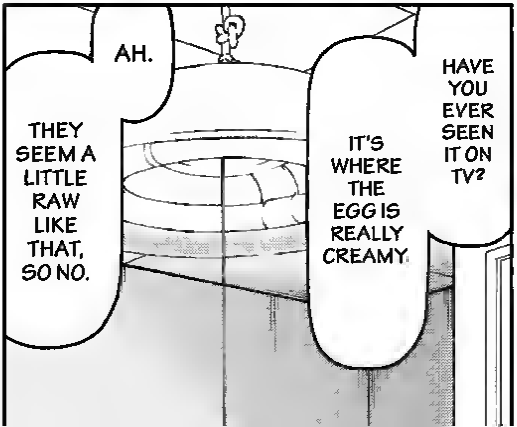
MAKE SURE YOU STIR IT SO THAT ALL OF THE KETCHUP GETS DISTRIBUTED EVENLY..
ジュ
SIZZLE


THE CHICKEN RICE IS DONE, SO WE'LL PUT IT IN A DIFFERENT BOWL.

SIZZLE


DO YOU WANT TO MAKE EGGS THE POPULAR, FLUFFY AND CREAMY WAY?

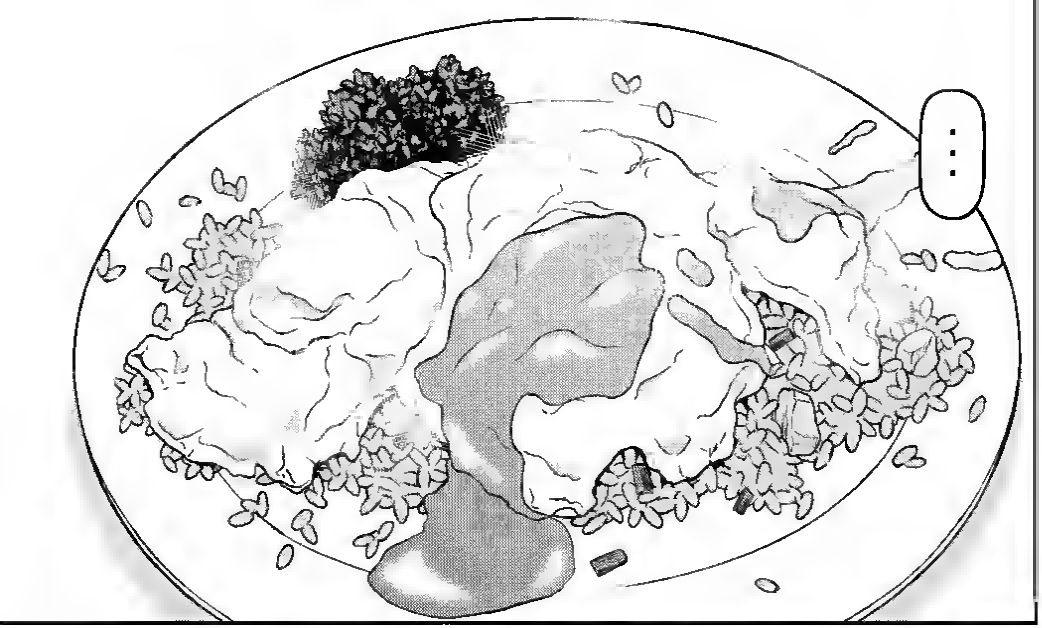

WHAT'S THAT?
FLUFFY AND CREAMY?


AH.
THEY SEEM A LITTLE RAW LIKE THAT, SO NO.
IT'S WHERE THE EGG IS REALLY CREAMY.
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN IT ON TV?

NEXT, WE'RE FINALLY GOING TO COOK THE EGGS.
MIX
MIX

ALL RIGHT.
WE'LL MAKE THE OLD-SCHOOL, ORTHODOX OMURICE, THEN.
OKAY.
SIZZLE
YOU SPREAD OUT THE EGG IN A CIRCLE SO IT COVERS THE ENTIRE BOTTOM OF THE FRYING PAN
THEN, YOU PUT SOME OF THE CHICKEN RICE OFF TO THE SIDE.
NEXT.
YOU COVER IT WITH THE EGG.
YOU PUT IT ON THE PLATE...
...AND FINALLY PUT KETCHUP ON IT.

THE OMURICE IS DONE.
TADA!
YUP
NOT TOO BAD, IF I SAY SO MYSELF
AND IT LOOKS SO GOOD!
IT'S SO CUTE!
店に出せるレベルだな
I COULD SELL THAT AT THE CAFÉ
NOW NINA WILL MAKE THE EGG
AND WRAP THE RICE.
I'M GONNA TAKE A PICTURE.
CLICK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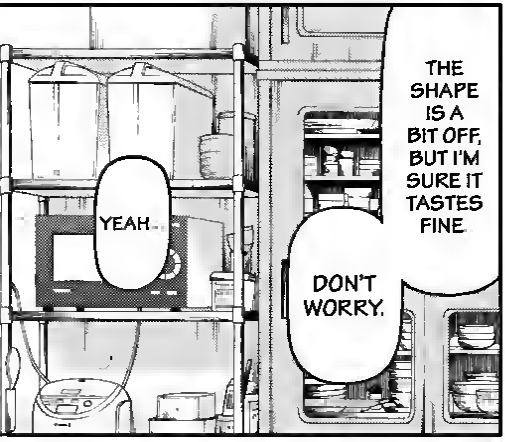
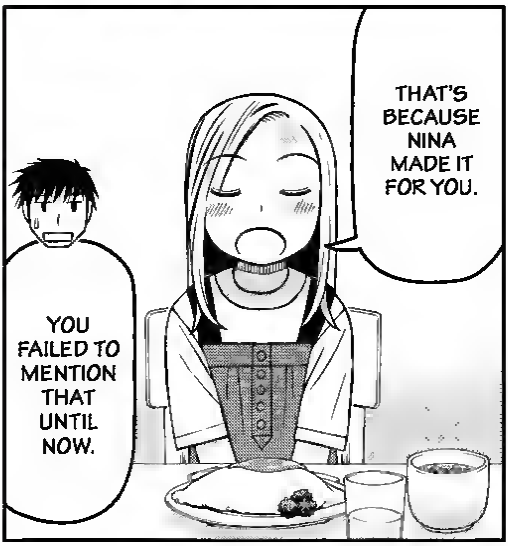

THE SHAPE IS A BIT OFF, BUT I'M SURE IT TASTES FINE.
DON'T WORRY.
YEAH...

IT'S HARDER THAN NINA THOUGHT.
IT'S ALL BUMPY...
なんかボコボコになっちゃったよ…
HA HA...

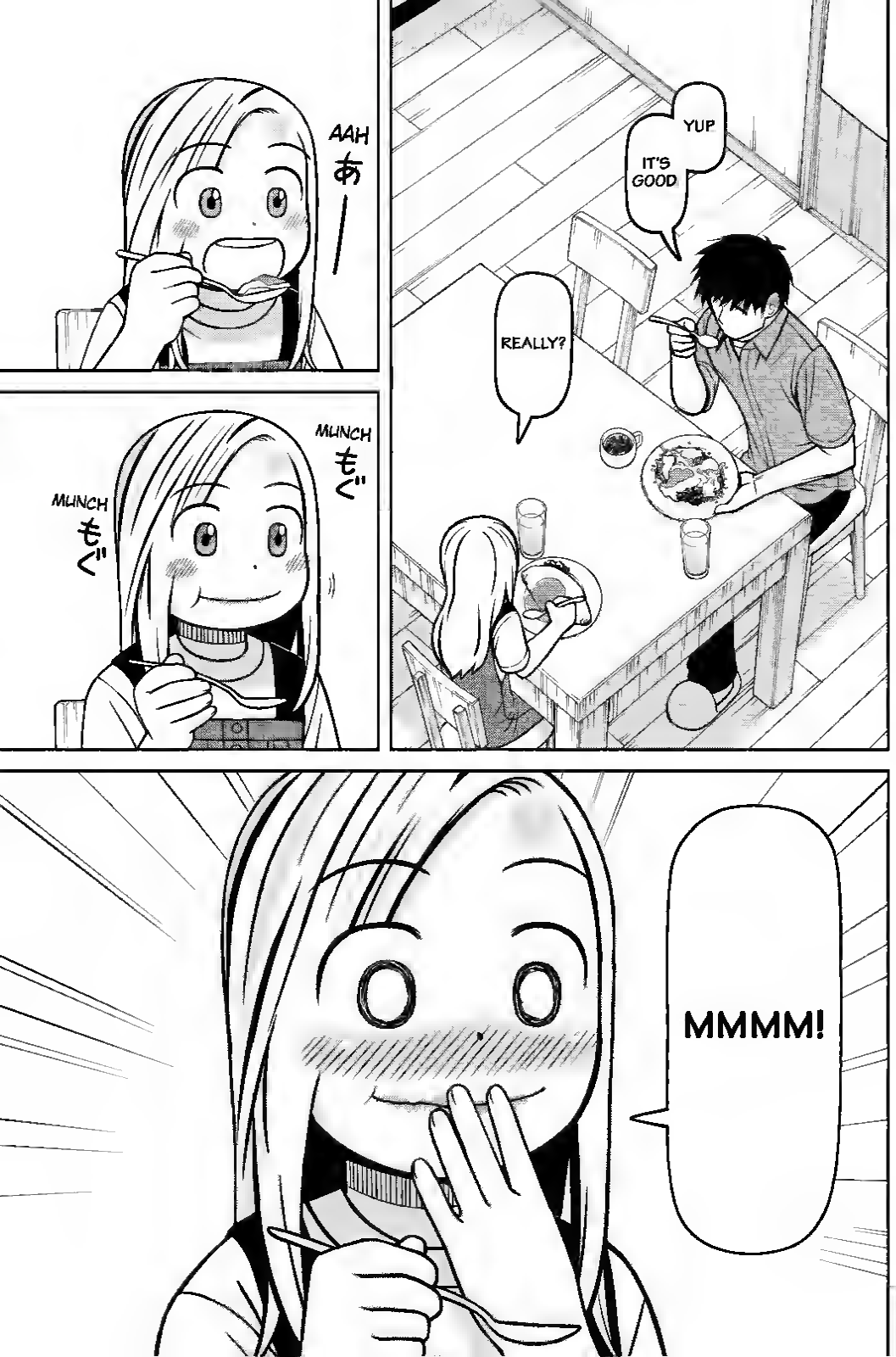
I'M GONNA TAKE A PICTURE OF THIS, TOO
YOU DON'T NEED TO!

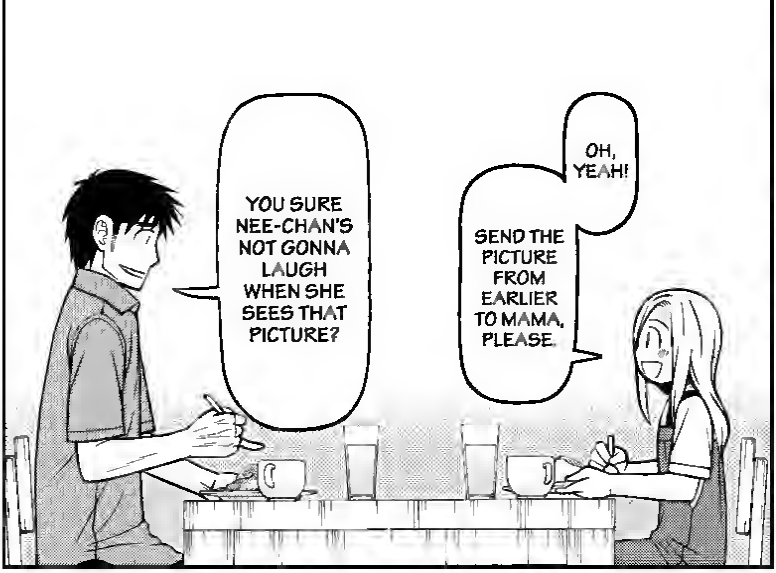
...
HUH?

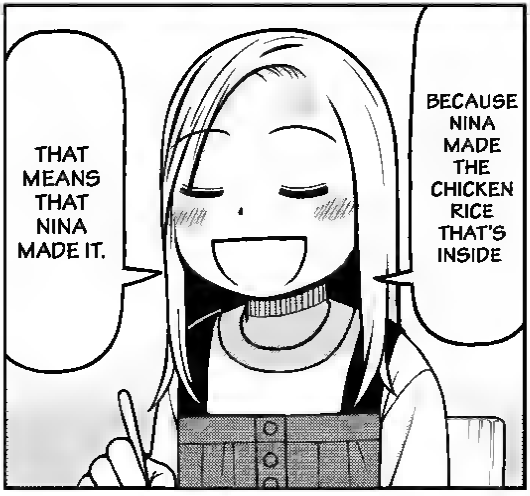

THAT'S BECAUSE NINA MADE IT FOR YOU.
YOU FAILED TO MENTION THAT UNTIL NOW.

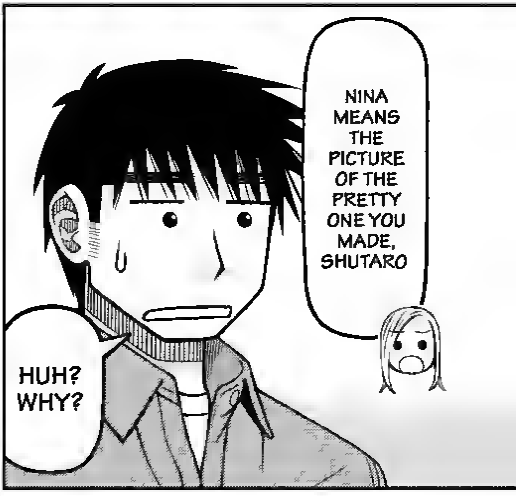
I'M SUPPOSED TO EAT THE ONE YOU MADE?

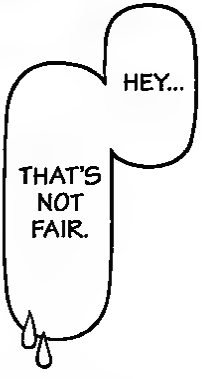
W-
WELL, WHAT-EVER
ALL RIGHT, LET'S EAT.
YEAH!


AAH
あー
YUP
IT'S GOOD
REALLY?
MUNCH
もぐ
MUNCH
もぐ
MMMM!





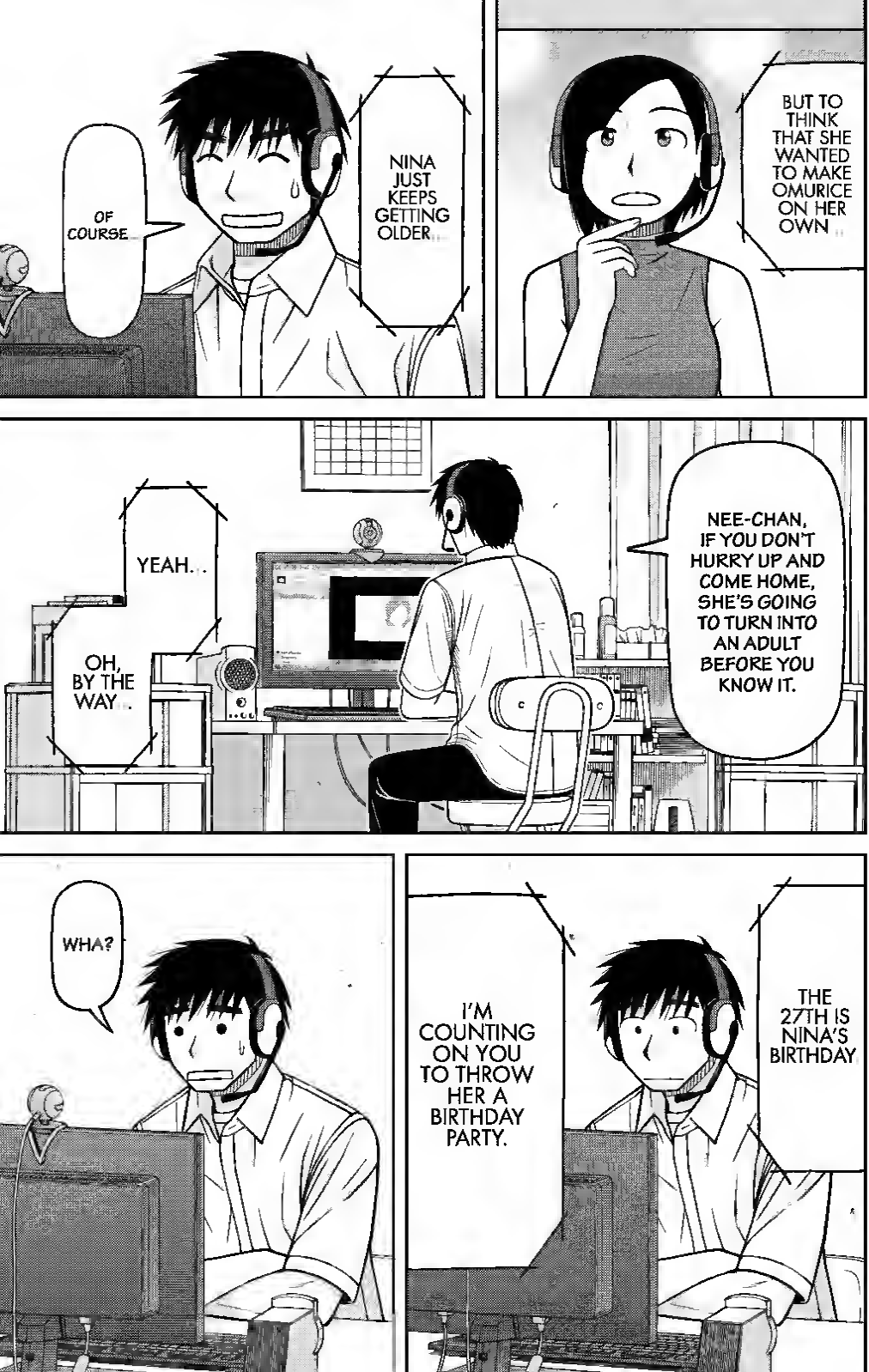




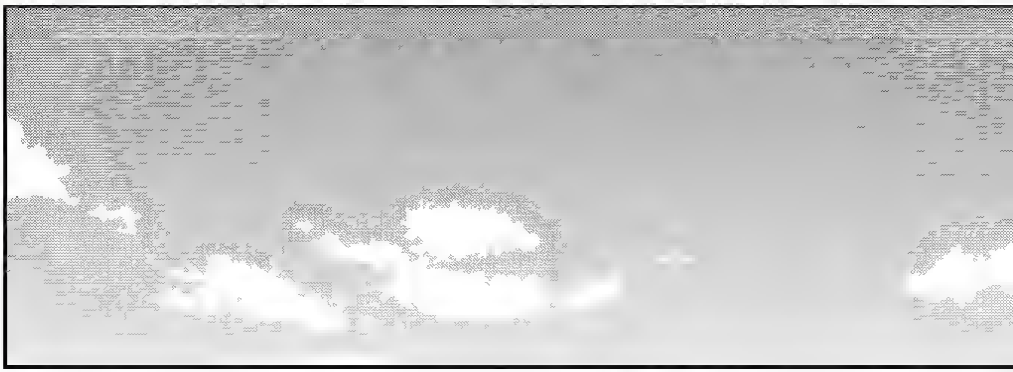
IT WAS A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT...

CHAPTER 79
THE DAY THAT ONLY COMES ONCE A YEAR

WHO DOES THAT LAUGHING VOICE BELONG TO?
AHA HA HA!
TALK ABOUT A HORRIBLE OMURICE.
AH, SORRY.
DON'T TELL NINA ABOUT THAT, OKAY?
THAT'S THE FIRST OMURICE YOUR DAUGHTER'S EVER MADE.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO LAUGH THAT MUCH.


NINA JUST KEEPS GETTING OLDER...
OF COURSE...
BUT TO THINK THAT SHE WANTED TO MAKE OMURICE ON HER OWN...
NEE-CHAN, IF YOU DON'T HURRY UP AND COME HOME, SHE'S GOING TO TURN INTO AN ADULT BEFORE YOU KNOW IT.
YEAH...
OH, BY THE WAY...
THE 27TH IS NINA'S BIRTHDAY.
I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO THROW HER A BIRTHDAY PARTY.
WHA?

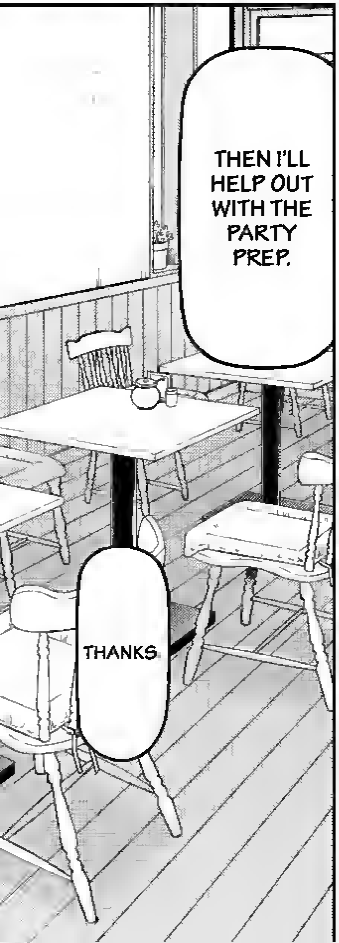
WHAT?
YOU NEED TO TELL ME THINGS LIKE THAT SOONER!
もうあんまり日がねえじゃねーか
THERE AREN'T THAT MANY DAYS LEFT!
I'M SORRY I FORGOT TO TELL YOU.
HEH.
YEAH, NOT "HEH."

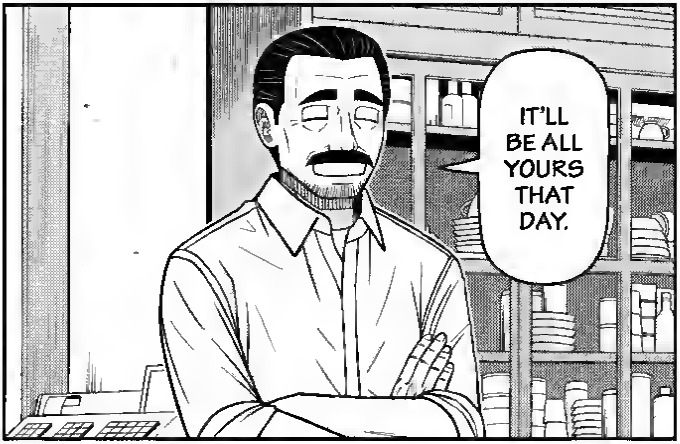


A BIRTHDAY PARTY, HUH?

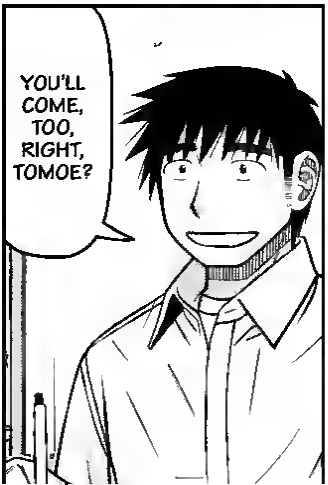
HUH...
CAFÉ SHIROGANETEI
珈琲処
銀亭

I WANT TO INVITE NINA'S TWO FRIENDS OVER AND DO SOME-THING CHILL NEXT SUNDAY.
COULD WE USE SOME SPACE IN THE SHOP, DAD?
YEAH, THAT'S FINE.


THEN I'LL HELP OUT WITH THE PARTY PREP.
THANKS.

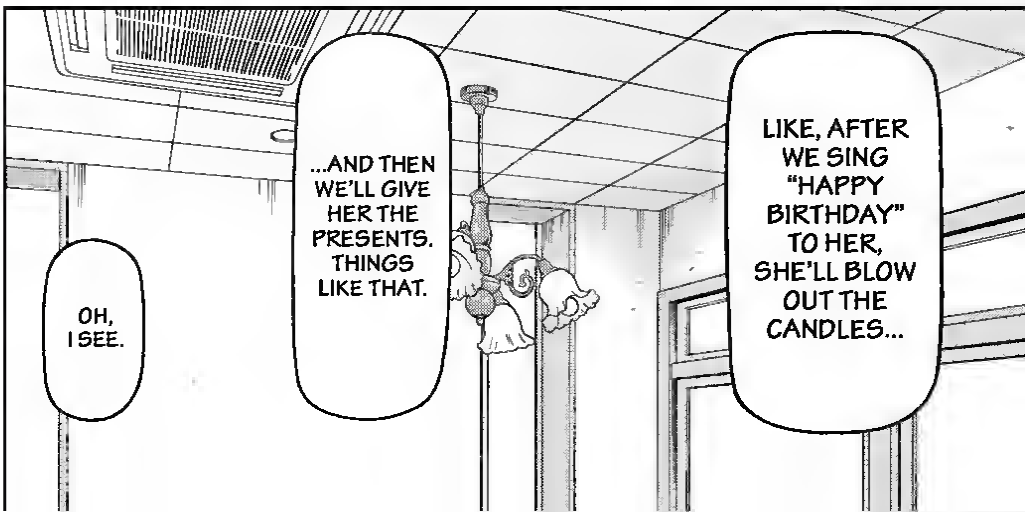

IT'LL BE ALL YOURS THAT DAY.

AM I INVITED?
YEAH.


YOU'LL COME, TOO, RIGHT, TOMOE?

LEAVE THE COOKING AND FOOD TO ME.
I'LL ORDER THE BIRTHDAY CAKE FROM CAFÉ DE COCO.
LET'S SEE...

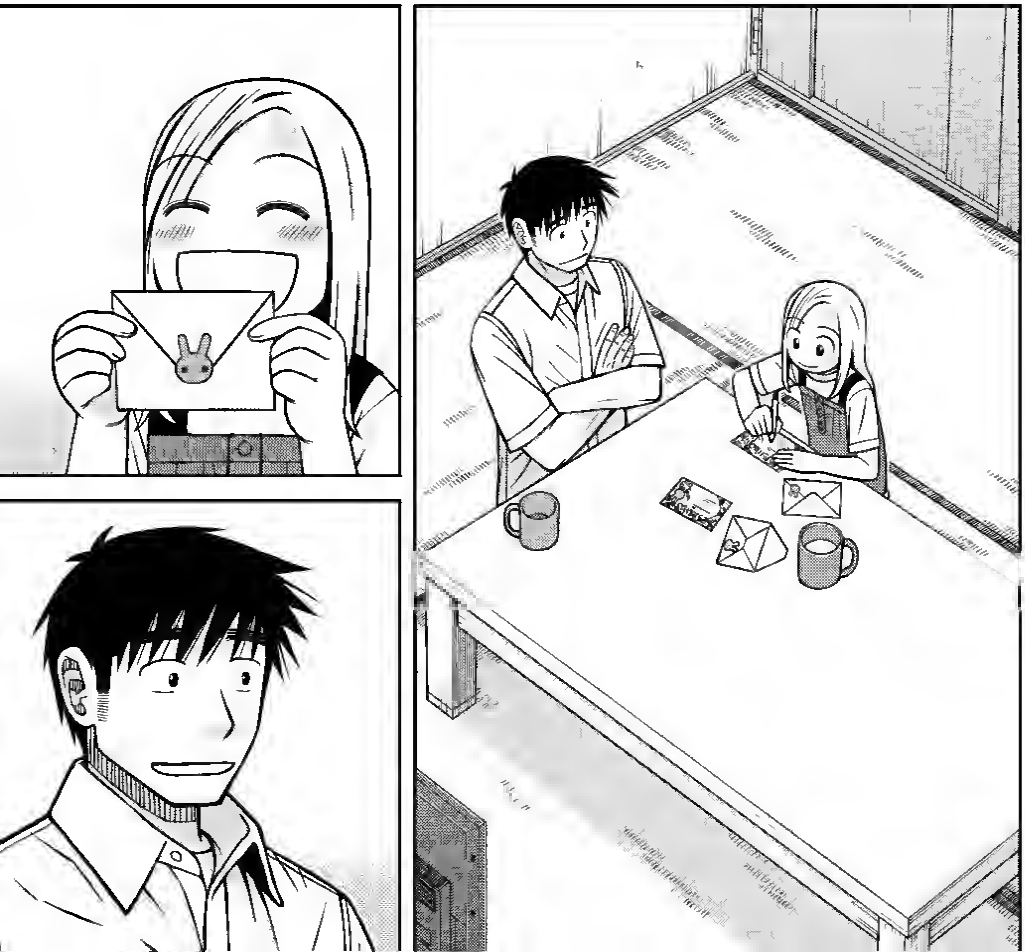
MAKE A PLAN?
WE'LL NEED TO MAKE A PLAN
THEN, THERE'S THE DECORA-TIONS AND PRESENTS

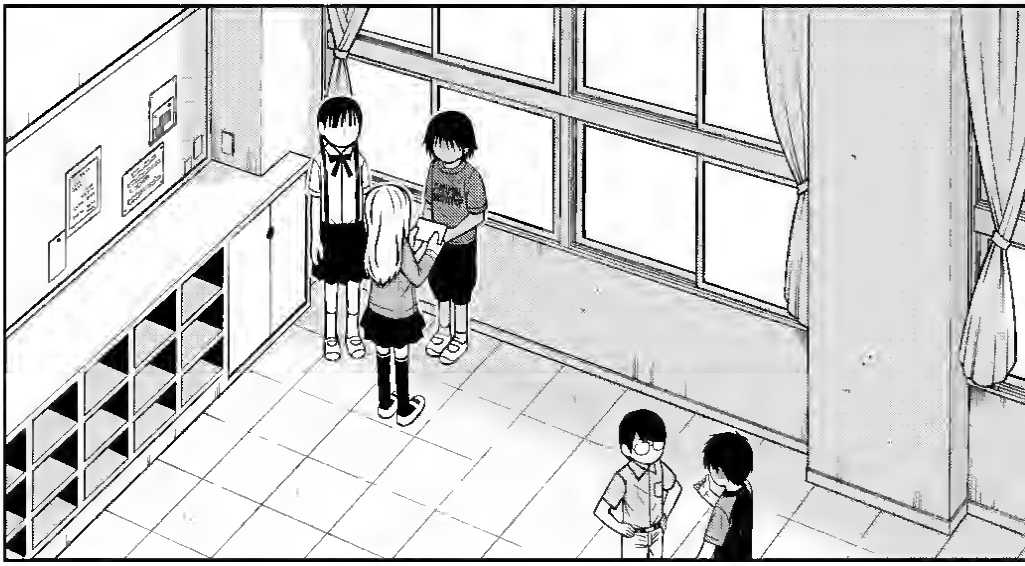

OH, I SEE.
...AND THEN WE'LL GIVE HER THE PRESENTS. THINGS LIKE THAT.
LIKE, AFTER WE SING "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" TO HER, SHE'LL BLOW OUT THE CANDLES...

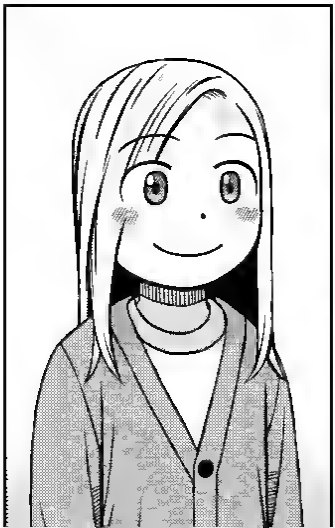
I GUESS THERE'S A LOT OF PREP INVOLVED IN PLANNING A BIRTHDAY PARTY.
...
GOOD IDEA.
WE SHOULD PROBABLY HAVE SOME GAMES READY, TOO.
IF ARISA-CHAN AND MAKOTO-CHAN ARE COMING,
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GOING TO BE BUSY.
YOU HAVE PLENTY OF TIME ON YOUR HANDS,
SO THAT SHOULD BE PERFECT.
HAHA...

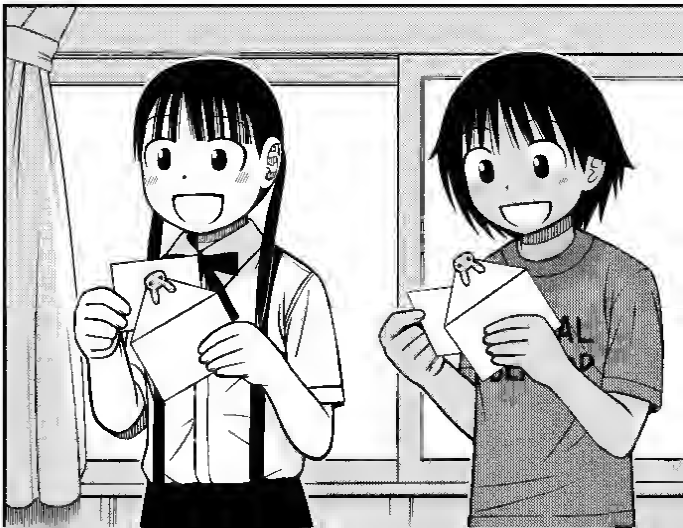
A BIRTHDAY PARTY?
WHAT?
REALLY? WE'RE REALLY GONNA HAVE ONE?
MMHMM
CALM DOWN
I SEE
NINA WAS WONDERING WHAT SHE'D DO IF THERE WASN'T A BIRTHDAY PARTY.
NINA WAS GETTING A BIT WORRIED
THANK GOODNESS

I WANTED TO INVITE ARISA-CHAN AND MAKOTO-CHAN,
BUT IS THAT OKAY?
NINA WANTS TO INVITE THEM!
THEN LET'S WRITE UP SOME INVITA-TIONS LATER.
OKAY.









HAPPY
ニーナの
たんじょ
NINA'S BIRTHDAY
Happy
BirthDay

SORRY TO KEEP YOU SO LATE, TOMOE.
IT'S FINE, I'M HAVING FUN.

I SEE.

IT WAS KIND OF NOSTAL-GIC.
IT ALMOST FEELS LIKE WE'RE MAKING SOMETHING FOR A SCHOOL FAIR..

I JUST BOUGHT HER A BICYCLE NOT TOO LONG AGO.
I CAN'T THINK OF ANY-THING GOOD.

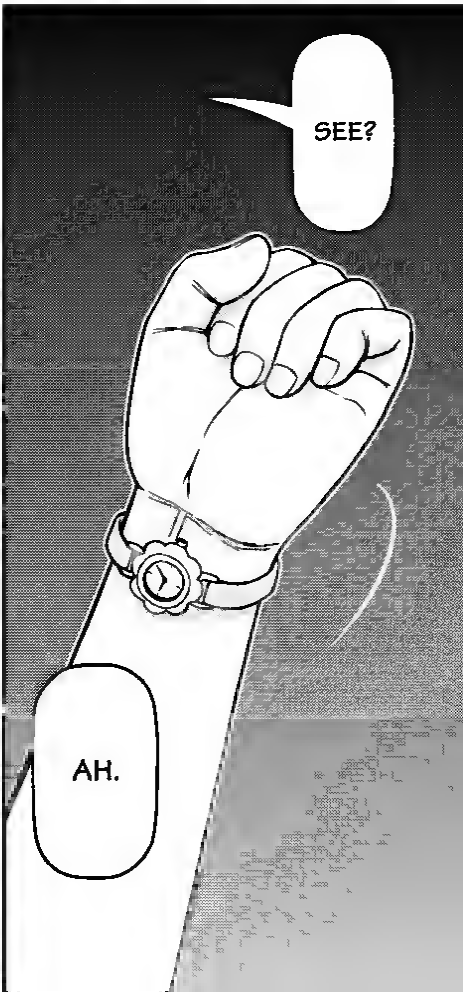
NOT YET.
NO...
BY THE WAY, SHU, DID YOU DECIDE ON A PRESENT?

A DIGITAL CAMERA?
MAYBE A DIGITAL CAMERA?
WHAT ABOUT YOU, TOMOE?
WELL, I HAVE A SMART-PHONE NOW...
SO I DON'T USE MY DIGITAL CAMERA AT ALL.
DOESN'T THAT COST A LOT?
NAH, I WAS JUST GONN A GIVE HER ONE OF MY OLD ONES
I SEE.
SO, I WAS THINKING THAT IT'D BE BETTER IF I GAVE IT TO NINA.
OLD ONES?

A DIGITAL CAMERA, HUH
TRUE, WHEN YOU HAVE A SMART-PHONE,
YOU DON'T REALLY USE CAMERAS OR WRIST-WATCHES
YEAH, WATCHES, TOO.
AH...

S-
SORRY!
I...
GAVE YOU A WRIST-WATCH, DIDN'T I?
HEH,
YOU STILL REMEM-BER?

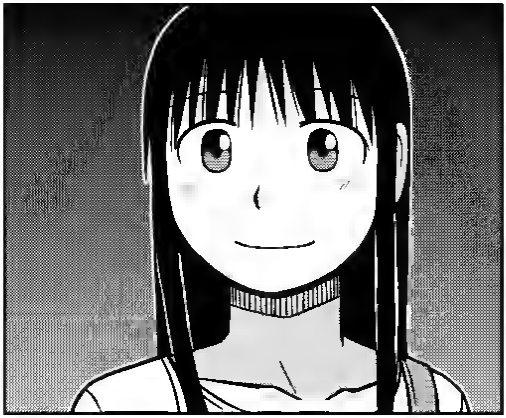
YOU'RE WEARING THE ONE THAT I GAVE YOU?
YEAH.

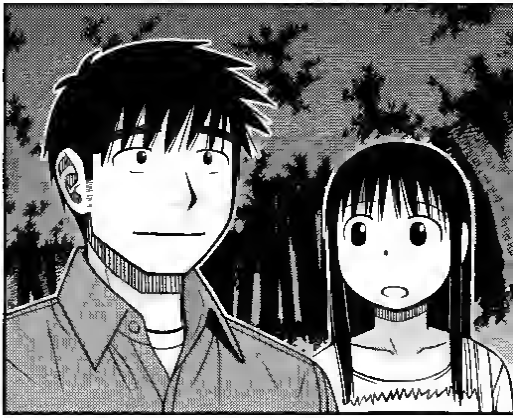

SEE?
AH.

I DIDN'T REALLY THINK IT WAS MY STYLE AT FIRST,
BUT I LIKE IT A LOT NOW.

SURE
THANKS AGAIN, SHU.
SO...
HM...
WHY DON'T YOU GIVE NINA-CHAN A WRIST-WATCH, TOO?
OH, YEAH.
...
WHAT WOULD THAT BE?
THE MOST HAPPY, HUH...
I WANT TO DO THE THING THAT I KNOW WILL MAKE HER THE MOST HAPPY
RATHER THAN BUYING HER SOME-THING.

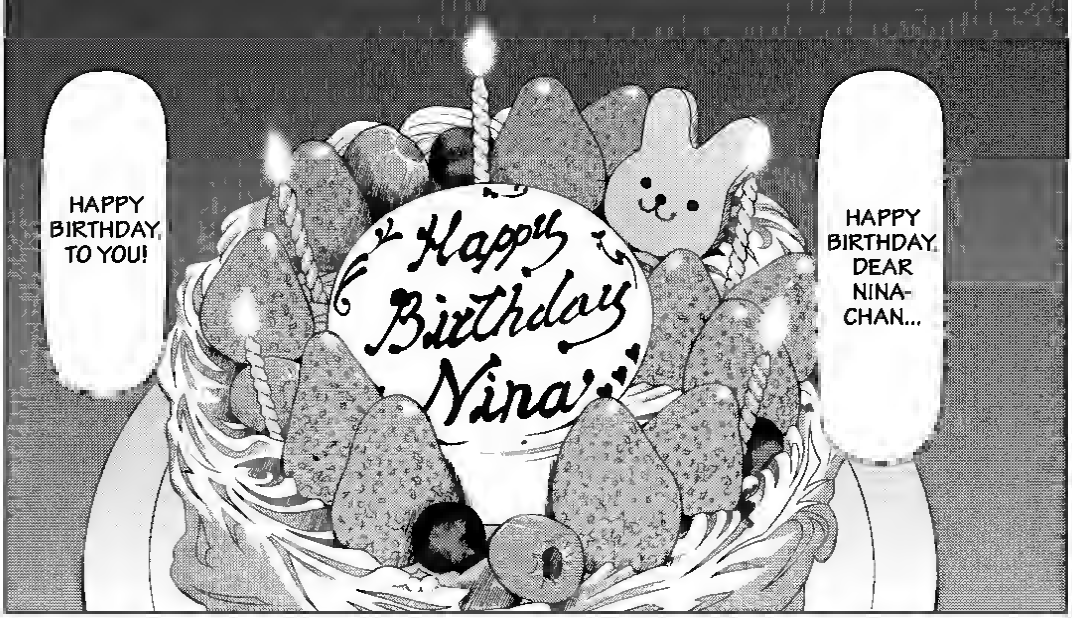
ALL RIGHT.
IT'LL BE A BIT OF WORK,
BUT I'LL GIVE IT A TRY.





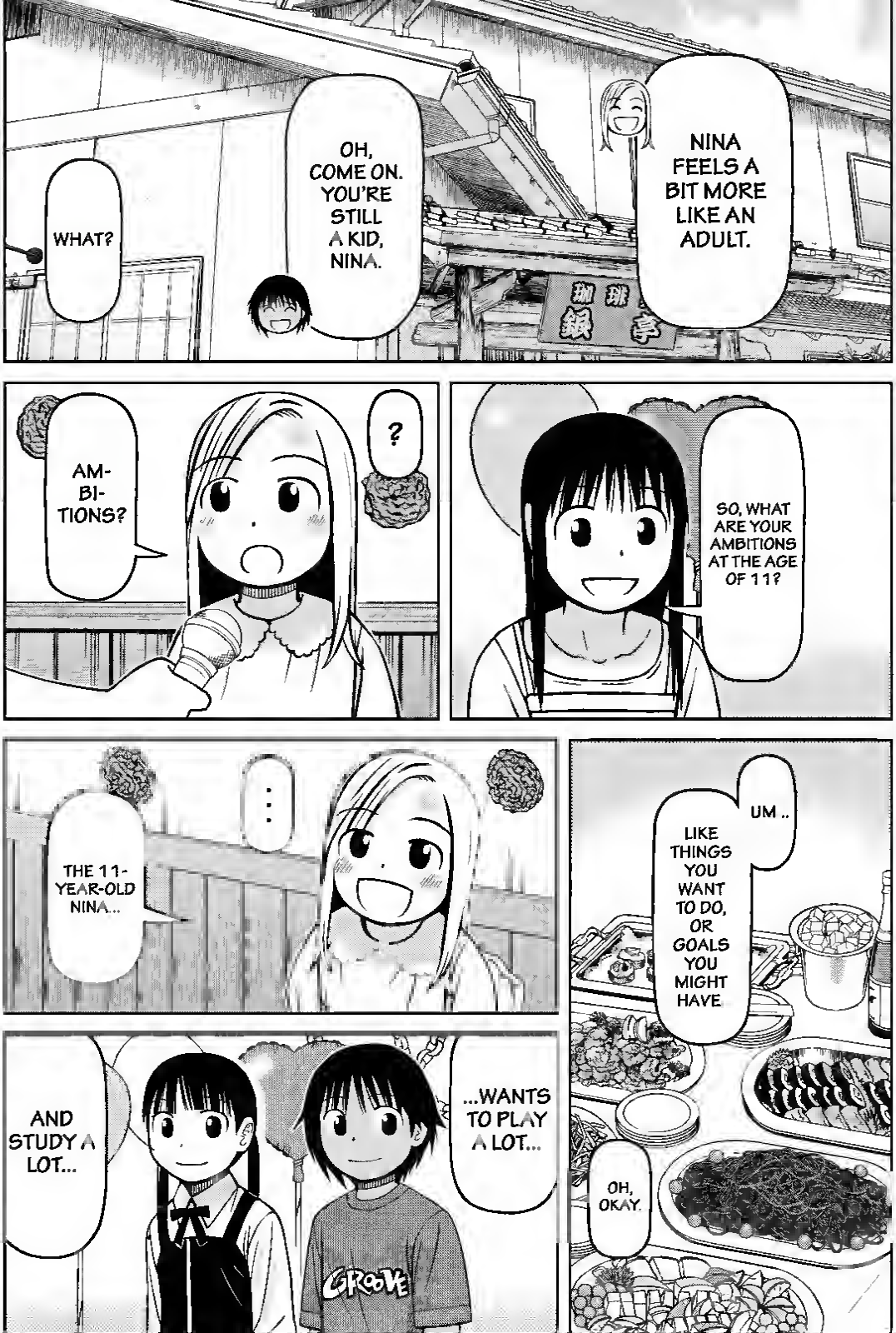
HM.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'VE GOT IN MIND...
BUT DO YOUR BEST.
SHU.
IT SHOULD BE A WONDERFUL BIRTHDAY!

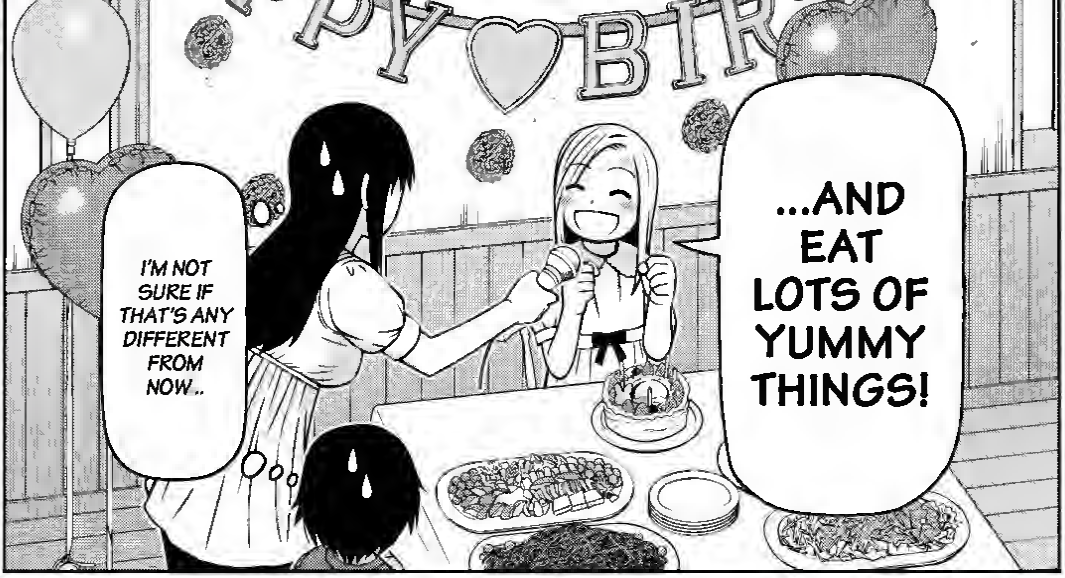
CHAPTER 80
THE BEST PRESENT

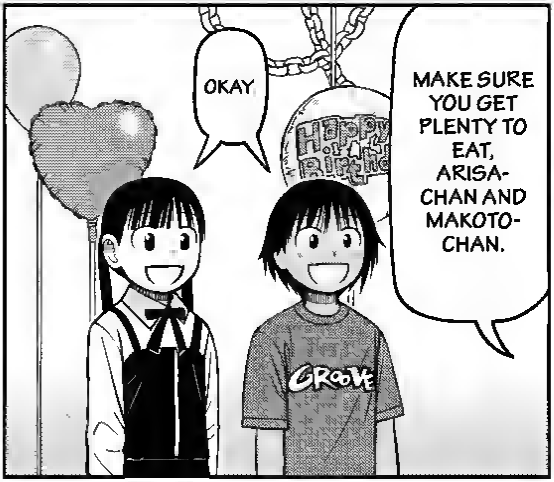

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!
Happy Birthday Nina
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DEAR NINA-CHAN...

NINA-CHAN!
CLAP パチ
HAPPY 11TH BIRTHDAY,
CLAP パチ
CLAP パチ
CLAP パチ
CLAP パチ
CLAP パチ

NOW, BLOW OUT THE CANDLES
OKAY
THANK YOU!
GROOVE
ふ BLOW
NINA-CHAN,
HOW DO YOU FEEL NOW THAT YOU'VE TURNED 11?
UM...
THEY WENT OUT
CLAP パチ
CLAP パチ
CLAP パチ
CLAP パチ
CLAP パチ


NINA FEELS A BIT MORE LIKE AN ADULT.
OH, COME ON. YOU'RE STILL A KID, NINA.
WHAT?
珈琲 銀亭
SO, WHAT ARE YOUR AMBITIONS AT THE AGE OF 11?
?
AM-BI-TIONS?
UM .. LIKE THINGS YOU WANT TO DO, OR GOALS YOU MIGHT HAVE
OH, OKAY.
...
THE 11-YEAR-OLD NINA...
...WANTS TO PLAY A LOT...
AND STUDY A LOT...
GROOVE

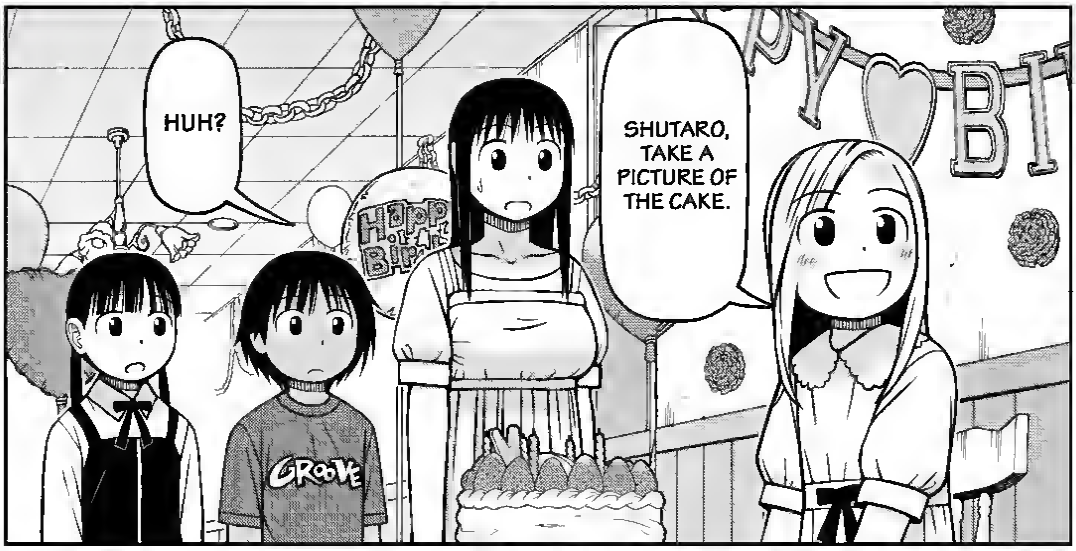

I'M NOT SURE IF THAT'S ANY DIFFERENT FROM NOW..
...AND EAT LOTS OF YUMMY THINGS!


OKAY
MAKE SURE YOU GET PLENTY TO EAT, ARISA-CHAN AND MAKOTO-CHAN.
GROOVE

Happy BirthDay
WELL...
AS FOR YUMMY THINGS, WE'VE GOT PLENTY OF THOSE PREPARED FOR TODAY.

ALL RIGHT, NINA-CHAN,
LET'S CUT THE CAKE AND SERVE THEM TO EVERY-ONE.
OKAY

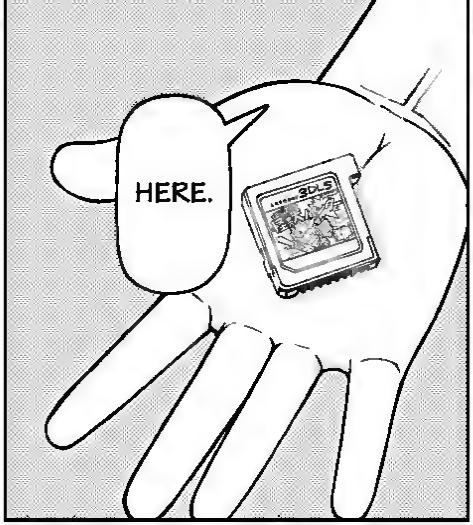
NINA WANTS TO TAKE A PICTURE OF THE CAKE BEFORE SHE CUTS IT.
Happy Birthday Nina
AH, WAIT!


HUH?
SHUTARO, TAKE A PICTURE OF THE CAKE.
GROOVE

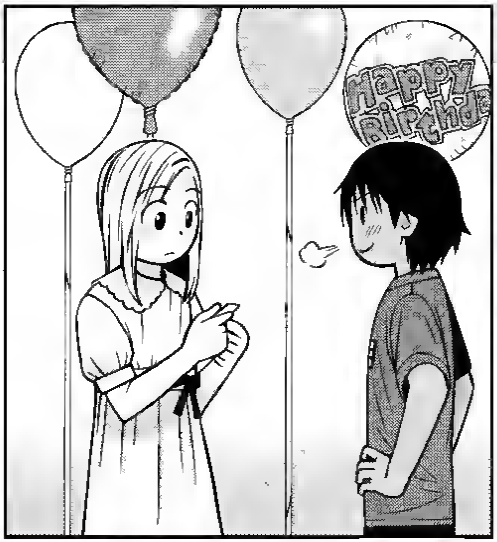
I THINK HE'S TRYING TO GET YOUR BIRTHDAY PRESENT READY.
OH, OKAY.
HUH? WHAT THE HECK?
BUT IT'S NINA'S BIRTHDAY PARTY!
UM...
SHUTARO'S NOT HERE.
WHY?
SHU HAD TO GO OUT FOR A BIT.

PRIVATE EVENT TODAY
OKAY.
I'LL TAKE A PICTURE OF THE CAKE WITH MY SMART-PHONE.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

WE WANT TO GIVE NINA HER GIFTS NOW, BUT IS THAT ALL RIGHT?
SURE.
WHY DON'T WE SAY THAT NOW IS PRESENT-OPENING TIME?
YES?
UM
TOMOE-SAN
WOW!
IT'S SO CUTE!
IT'S A BOOK COVER AND BOOK-MARK.
IT MATCHES MINE.
MAKOTO-CHAN, THANK YOU!
GROOVE


HERE.
3DLS

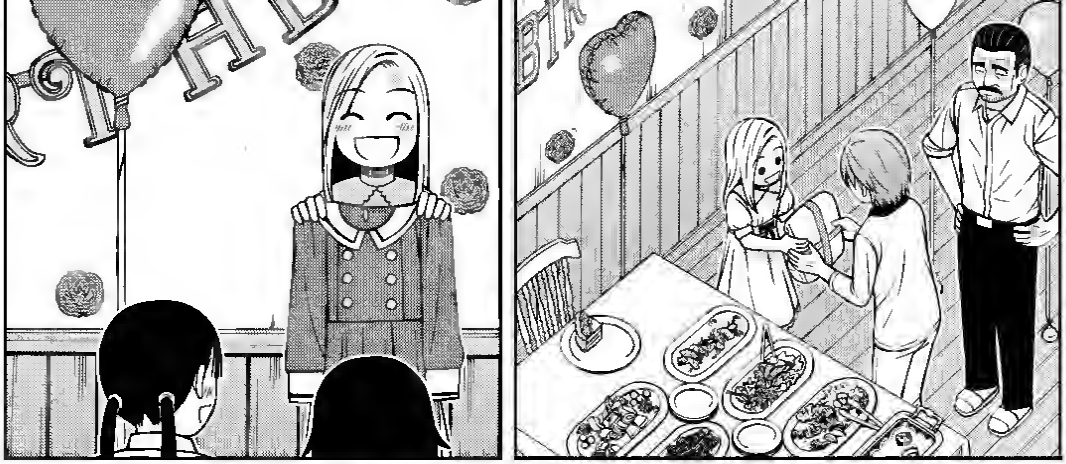
Happy Birthday
NEXT IS MY PRESENT.
GROOVE

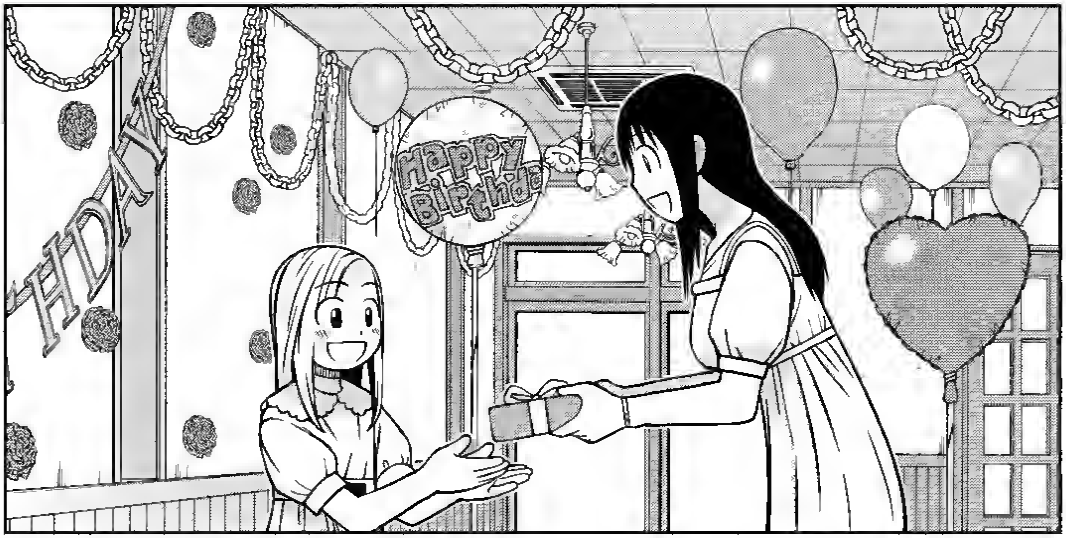

Happy Birthday

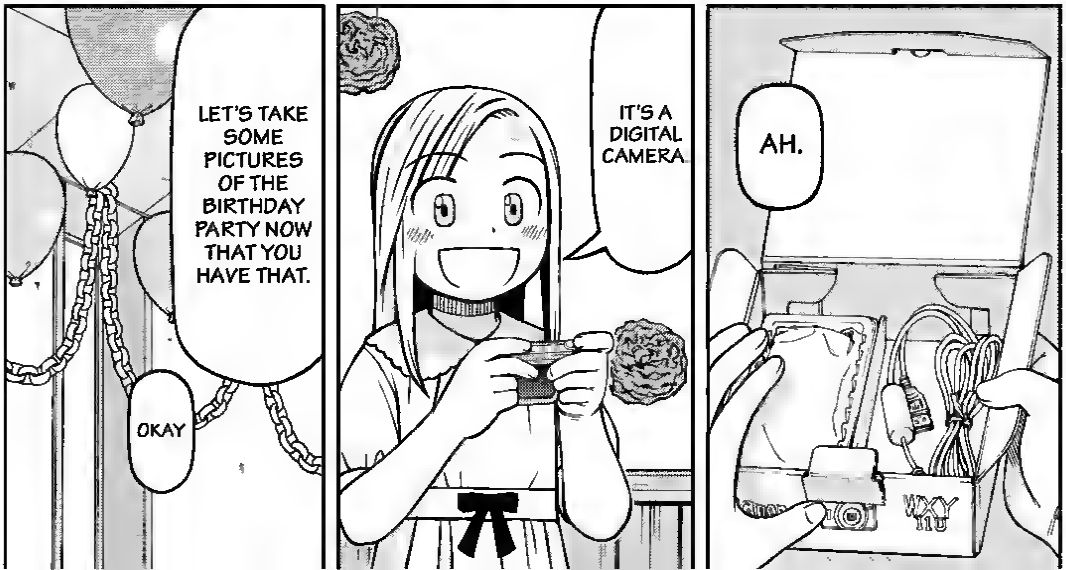
MINE IS...
...A DATA CARD WITH THE SAVE DATA FOR "FLUFFY MONSTER HUNTER" WITH ALL OF THE ULTIMATE GEAR.
GROOVE

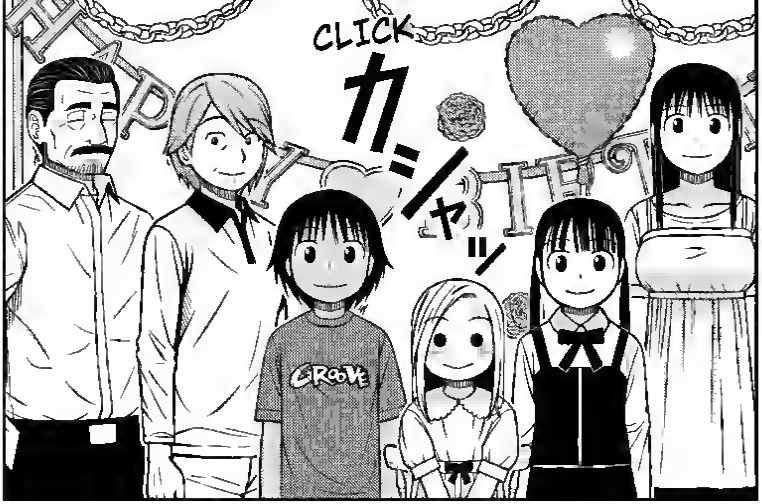
WHAT'S THAT?
HUH?

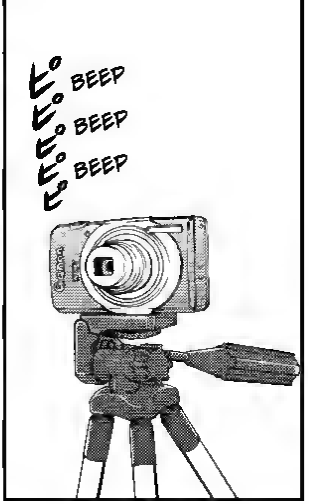
NINA DOES NOT OWN A GAMING CONSOLE
NINA, YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT "FLUFFY HUN" IS?
FOR THE 3DLS
NOPE.
I... I SEE...
BUT MAKE SURE YOU DON'T BRING THOSE TO SCHOOL.
I... I KNOW THAT...
すごくおもしろいから IT'S SO MUCH FUN!
OKAY.
THANK YOU FOR THE PRESENT, ARISA-CHAN.
I CAN USE MY DAD'S 3DLS FOR NOW, SO WE CAN PLAY TOGETHER!
THEN I'LL LET YOU BORROW MINE NEXT TIME!

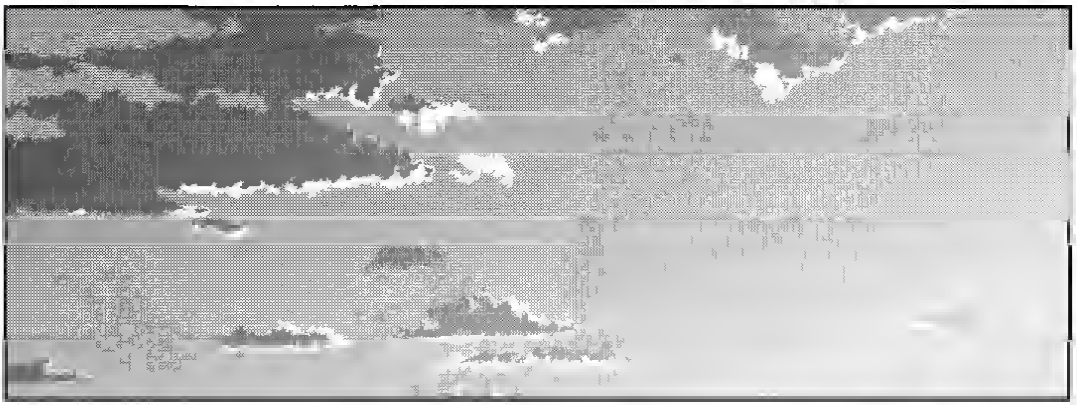


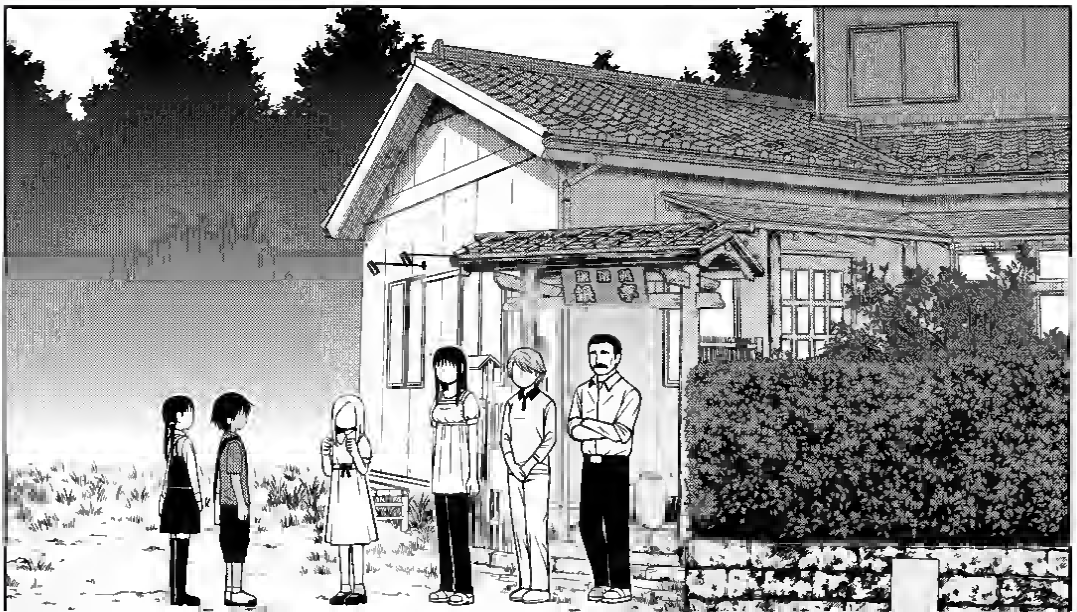

Happy Birthday

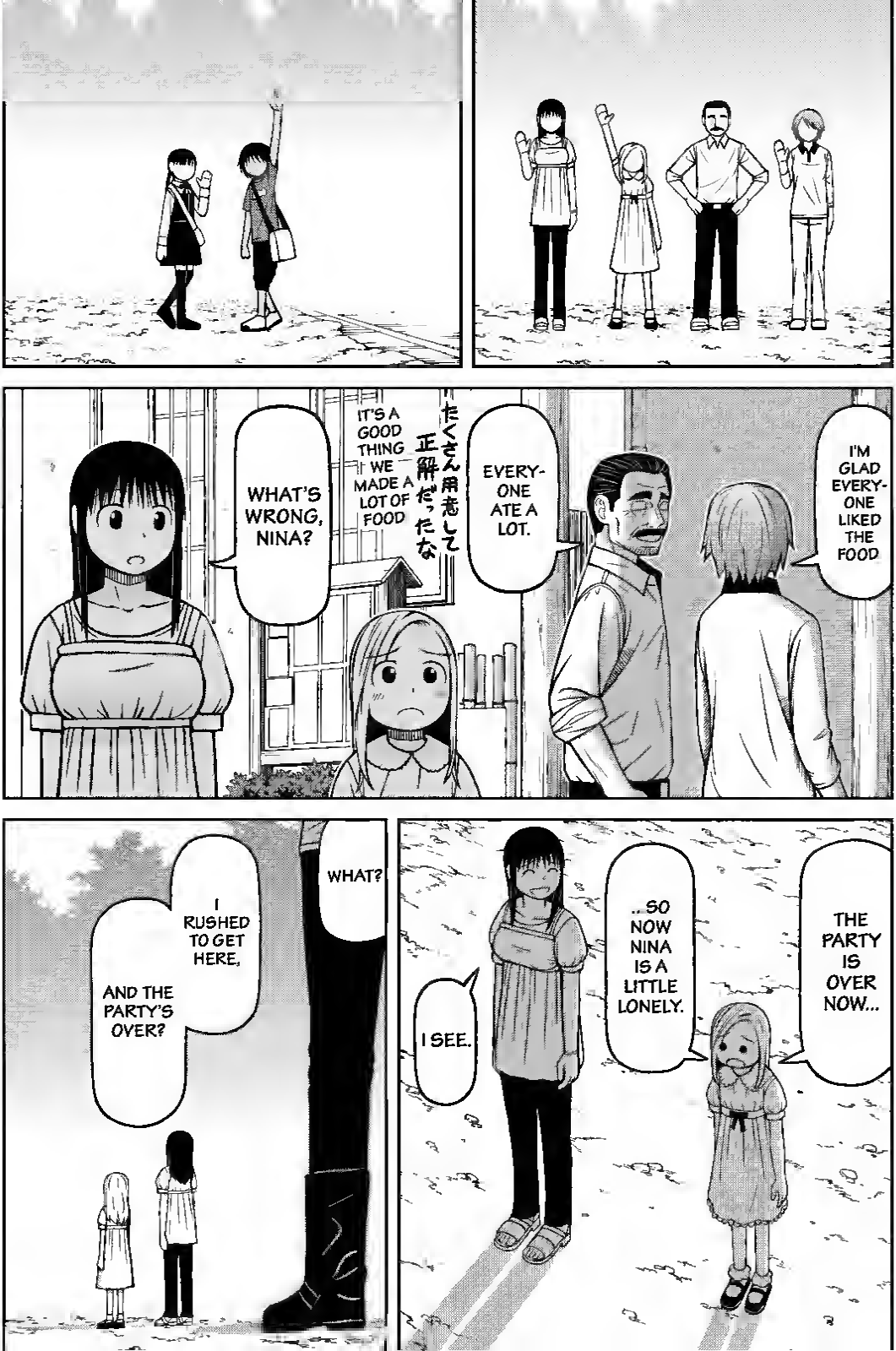

LET'S TAKE SOME PICTURES OF THE BIRTHDAY PARTY NOW THAT YOU HAVE THAT.
OKAY
IT'S A DIGITAL CAMERA.
AH.

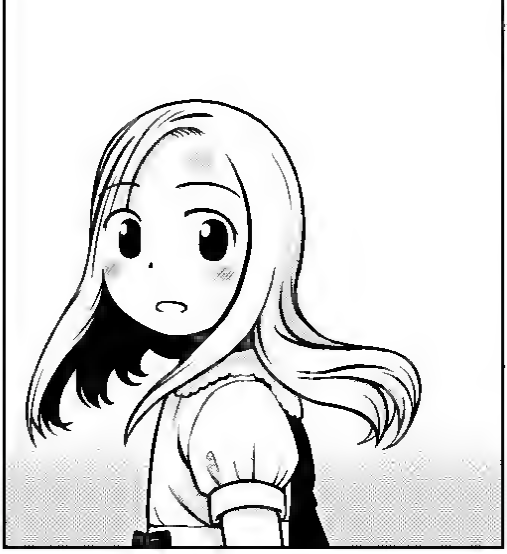

CLICK
カシャッ

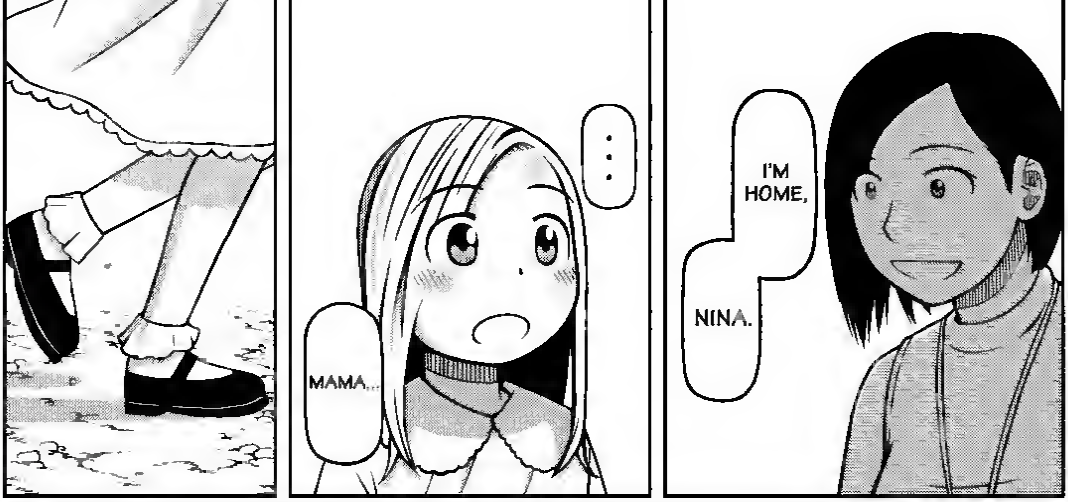

ピピピピピ
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP

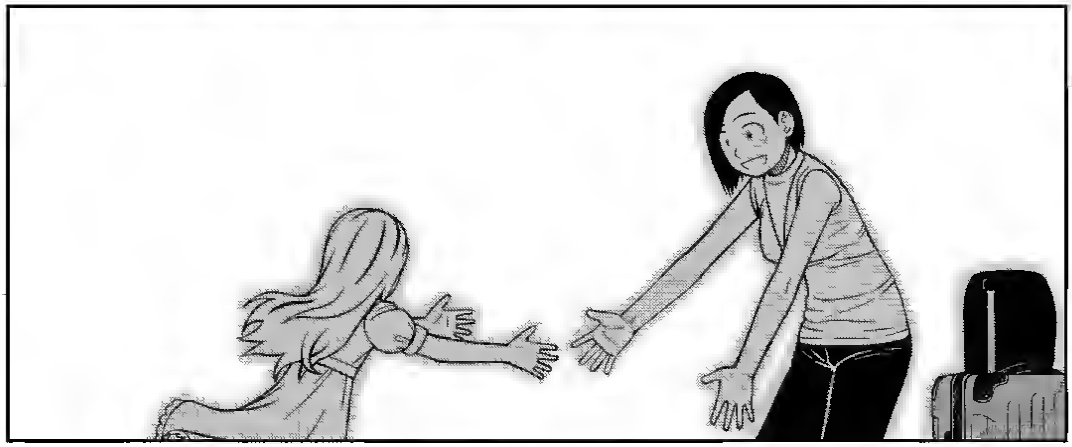




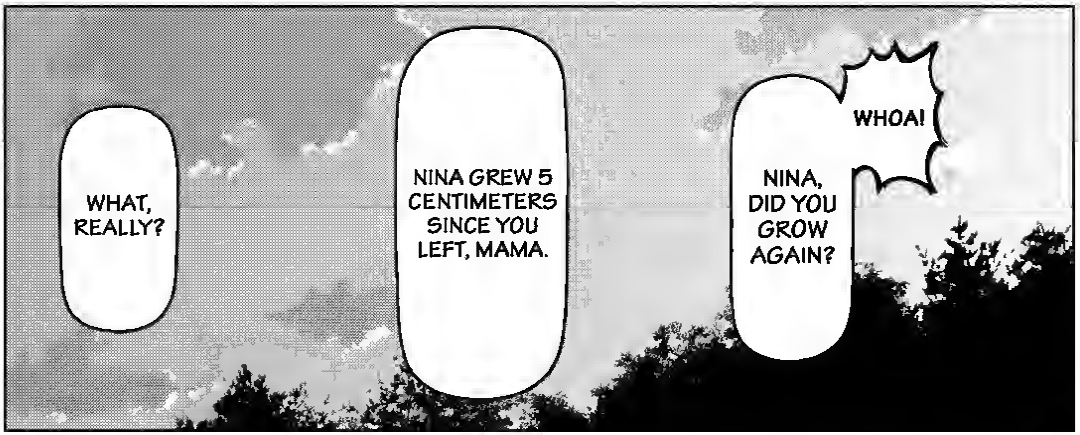

WHAT'S WRONG, NINA?
IT'S A GOOD THING WE MADE A LOT OF FOOD
たくさん用意して正解だったな
EVERY-ONE ATE A LOT.
I'M GLAD EVERY-ONE LIKED THE FOOD
WHAT?
I RUSHED TO GET HERE,
AND THE PARTY'S OVER?
I SEE.
..SO NOW NINA IS A LITTLE LONELY.
THE PARTY IS OVER NOW...




MAMA...
...
I'M HOME,
NINA.



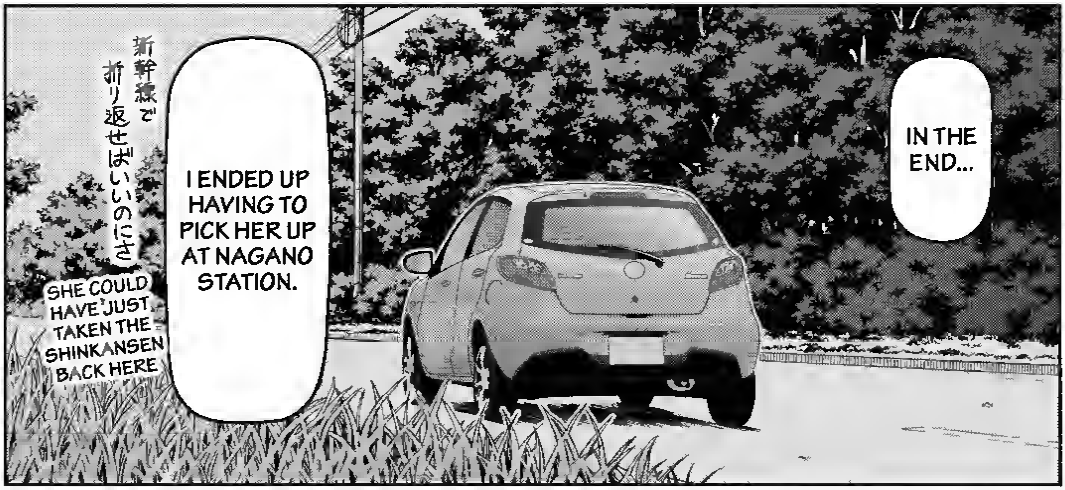
...MAMA.
WELCOME HOME ..


WHAT, REALLY?
NINA GREW 5 CENTIMETERS SINCE YOU LEFT, MAMA.
WHOA!
NINA, DID YOU GROW AGAIN?

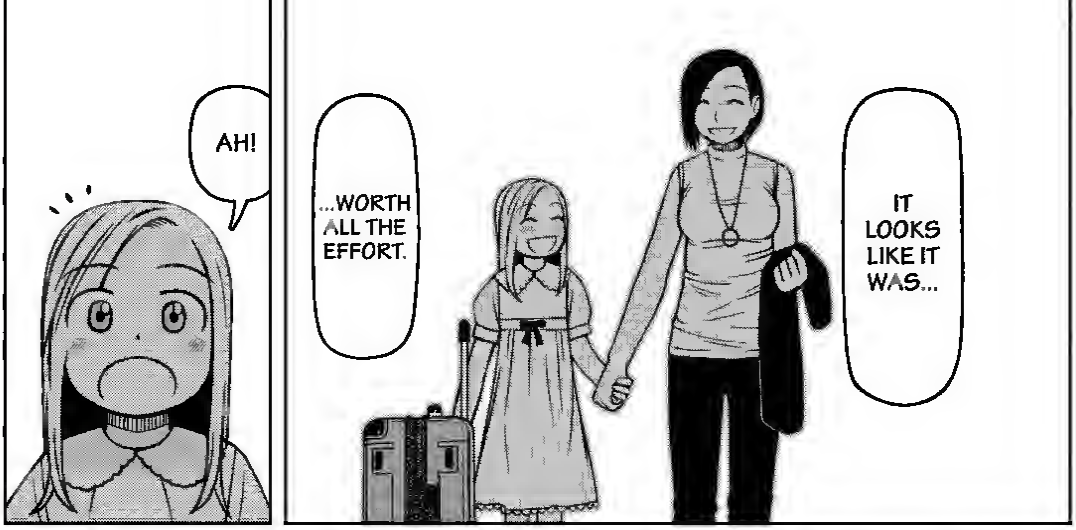
MAN, THAT WAS A TRIP.
YOU'RE LATE, SHU.

WHOA, YOU DID!
うわー ホントだ

I MANAGED TO TALK NEE-CHAN INTO COMING, AND WE FIGURED OUT HOW MUCH IT WOULD COST...
THEN I WENT TO KARUIZAWA STATION TO PICK HER UP IN MY CAR. .
BUT NEE-CHAN FORGOT TO GET OFF THE SHINKANSEN AND ENDED UP AT NAGANO STATION.
YOU IDIOT!! アホか!!

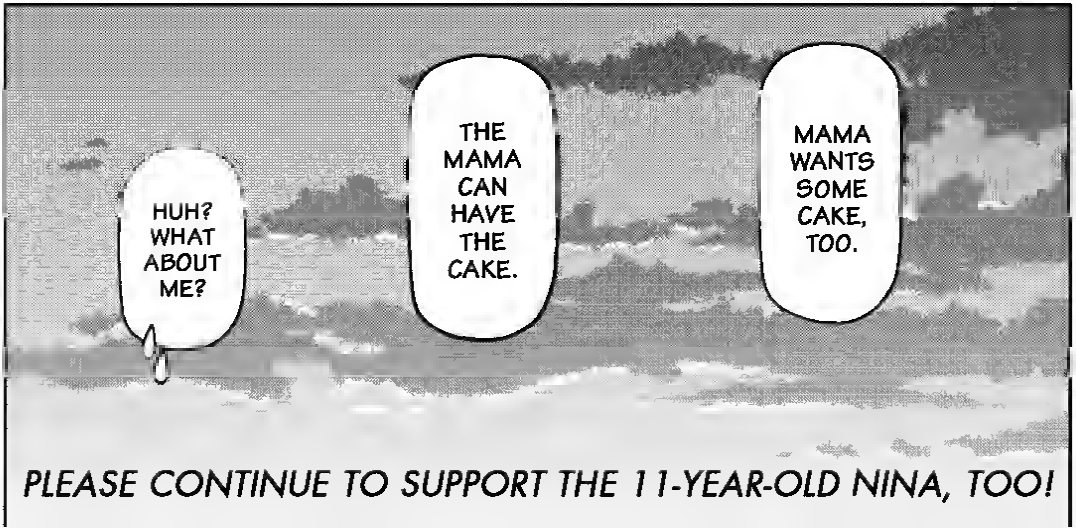

IN THE END...
I ENDED UP HAVING TO PICK HER UP AT NAGANO STATION.
新幹線で折り返せばいいのにさ
SHE COULD HAVE JUST TAKEN THE SHINKANSEN BACK HERE

HEHE, GOOD WORK.
やれやれ…
GOOD GRIEF.
BUT, WELL ..


AH!
...WORTH ALL THE EFFORT.
IT LOOKS LIKE IT WAS...

OH, SO THERE IS SOME CAKE LEFT.
THE ONLY FOOD LEFT IS BIRTHDAY CAKE, TOO.

SHUTARO, YOU'RE LATE!
NINA'S BIRTHDAY PARTY'S ALREADY OVER!


HUH? WHAT ABOUT ME?
THE MAMA CAN HAVE THE CAKE.
MAMA WANTS SOME CAKE, TOO.
PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE 11-YEAR-OLD NINA, TOO!